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REVIEW OF POLITICS.

DENMARK having surrendered at discretion, there is now little or no doubt as to the terms which will be exacted from her by the conquerors. It does not suit Prussia that she should enter the German Confederation, and Prussia is now mistress of the situation. Such an arrangement might be acceptable to Austria and advantageous to Germany; but Herr von Bismarck does not care for either. He has set his mind upon the aggrandisement of the country whose interests are committed to his charge, and this purpose he intends to carry out under the thinnest possible disguise. Not only Slesvig, Holstein, and Lauenburg, but part of Jutland, are to be separated from Denmark. They are to form a separate State, which is some day or other to be ruled over by a prince the validity of whose claims shall have been recognised by a Federal court of justice; but this hypothetical prince is not to ascend his throne until Austria, Prussia, and the German Confederation are repaid, out of the revenues of the Duchies, for the expenses of the late glorious war of liberation. In the meantime, Prussia—first indemnifying Austria for her outlay—is to retain possession of the conquered territory. It is true that Rendsburg is at once to become a Federal fortress, and Kiel, or some other port in Slesvig-Holstein, a Federal war-port; but it is not very difficult to guess what amount of control the Bund will possess over either, while the surrounding provinces are held by a Prussian army—even if it does not turn out that Prussian garrisons are located (of course in the name of the Confederation) in both places. It is obvious that the whole scheme amounts to a plan for placing the Duchies under Prussian rule for an indefinite period. And they must indeed be sanguine who expect that that period will ever be suffered to expire, unless other Powers intervene. Once fairly in possession of Slesvig-Holstein, M. von Bismarck will not readily let go his prey. The manner in which the Federal troops have just been compelled to evacuate Rendsburg is a sufficient indication of the respect which is likely to be paid either to the remonstrances of the other German Powers, or to the protests of the German people. Whether the latter will submit to the annexation of the Duchies by Prussia remains to be seen. There are already signs of growing discontent and indignation at the proceedings of the Court of Berlin. The Austrian journals are openly accusing the Northern Power of treason towards her Federal allies; nor does it seem at all unlikely that a war which was entered into in the name of German unity may become the immediate cause of a conflict between the German Powers. No retribution could be so fitting as that the robbers should quarrel, fight, and inflict mortal injuries upon each other

over the division of the spoil. It is not difficult to see what Powers must ultimately profit by war of this kind; but that is no longer any concern of ours. The illusion under which we laboured in regarding the German States as a Conservative Power in Europe has been rudely dispelled. We have no further concern with their fate than to watch the mode in which wrong brings about its punishment, and the ways of Providence in the moral government of the world are vindicated. Unless Germany is as spiritless and as abject as her worst enemies allege, we shall not have long to wait. If, indeed, forty millions of people really are content to let M. von Bismarck do whatever he pleases with them and their interests, their destiny must be a matter of supreme indifference to the rest of the world.

The Earl of Ellenborough made, the other night, a last, but necessarily a barren protest, against the recent foreign policy of the Government. It is well that there should still be in Parliament one statesman who can and will vindicate in language of stirring eloquence the claims of right and the obligations of duty. His speech may show to foreign rulers that there are yet some amongst us who are not disposed to let mere brute force have its way in Europe, and are not insensible to the part which it becomes England to play in defending the integrity and independence of the secondary States. But, for the present, both the great parties in the State are too well pleased to have got rid of a responsibility which hampered them in their struggles to gain or to retain place, to pay much heed to the warnings of the noble Earl. It may be that Europe is menaced with a return to a condition of political lawlessness. It may be that no State, except those of the first rank, is now sure of its independence from day to day. It may be that in an era of advanced civilization, scenes shocking both to our sense of justice and humanity are constantly passing in the most civilized portion of the world. It may even be that such things must draw after them terrible consequences, falling alike upon the guilty and the innocent. But these are not the considerations which influence the ten-pound householders, or weigh in the doubtful scales of a division in the House of Commons. Lord Derby, who is looking to the next election, will, therefore, do nothing to arouse the sensitive apprehensions of the middle-classes; and Earl Russell, true to his character as a mere parliamentary tactician, is quite satisfied with his own do-nothing policy, now that he can quote a resolution of the House of Commons in his favour. Statesmen upon both sides appear to think that the most which is required from them in the present crisis of European history is to say civil things of France and to cry up the advantages of an Anglo-French alliance. Whether we can rely on the Emperor Napoleon—whether it is fitting that our policy should be entirely

dependent upon his concurrence—whether there is or is not any cause, except the protection of our own selfish interest, for which we ought now to struggle as our ancestors would have struggled for what they deemed right and just—are questions which our “practical” politicians find it convenient to ignore. Upon such men a speech like that of the Earl of Ellenborough is thrown away; and we do not, therefore, wonder that it elicited no response from the House of Lords.

The annual rifle gathering at Wimbledon has been held this year with undiminished, or rather with augmented success. It is true that the highest scores made this year were surpassed by some of those attained in 1863; but this is amply accounted for by the heat, which raised a haze unfavourable to accuracy of sight at long distances; and by the confessedly inferior quality of many of the rifles supplied by Mr. Whitworth. The really important matters to be observed are, that a larger number of volunteers took part in the recent contest than any previous occasion, and that the average of the shooting was much better. At the same time, the excellence of the system under which our riflemen are trained is once more made manifest by the fact of the Queen’s prize being carried off by one “in cities pent,” who had not been educated to the use of firearms by practice in the stubble or the moor, but who, on the contrary, fired his first shot some three or four years ago. Nor should our congratulations stop at the manner in which the principal business of the meeting was performed. The gatherings around the camp fires, which were this year more numerous, and, if possible, more genial and hearty in their tone than ever, must have an important effect in breaking down the social barriers which might otherwise divide one class of volunteers from another, and in cementing the whole force together by a strong *esprit de corps* of the best and least exclusive kind. The Wimbledon meetings are a great result, achieved by a purely voluntary organization. They have assumed, without official prestige or assistance, a thoroughly national character, and we are warranted in hoping that within a few years they will not only produce some thousands of crack shots, but will induce the great body of the volunteers to make themselves at least tolerably proficient in the use of what may now be described as the national weapon.

The Indian budget is, upon the whole, one of a most satisfactory character. The policy of the Government has not on all points been the best that might have been adopted; nor can we help thinking that there are many ways in which a bolder might also have proved a wiser course, and might have led to a more rapid development of the resources of that magnificent empire. Still, there is no doubt that the figures Sir Charles Wood has laid before the House of Commons indicate a sound and steady progress. In each of the last three years there has been a considerable surplus of income above expenditure. £8,313,000 of debt have been paid off, and there is now a balance of £19,000,000 in the Indian treasury. Every branch of the revenue has improved; and there is the further gratifying feature about the increase of the land-tax, that it has been caused by the large quantity of fresh land taken into cultivation. Not only have the prices of Indian commodities risen, but the producers have obtained their share of the benefit thus arising to the country, in the shape of a rate of wages higher than was ever before known in Hindostan. Although the increase in the growth of cotton does not satisfy the natural impatience of Lancashire, it is steadily progressive; and it may fairly be doubted whether the development of this branch of agriculture could be advantageously accelerated by any action on the part of the Government more direct than that which has already taken place. Many public works of the highest utility are being energetically carried on, notwithstanding the difficulties interposed by the prosperity of the country, which causes an unusual competition for labour. Several administrative and legal reforms have lately been introduced with excellent effect. The domestic tranquillity of the empire is unbroken, nor is there any apparent danger from abroad. Looking broadly at the facts and figures of the Indian Minister, they appear to show that the condition of the empire committed to his charge is one of unprecedented prosperity; and, while they afford grounds for satisfaction with the present, they are still more fruitful of hopes for the future.

The House of Commons has been engaged on two or

three nights during the past week in endeavouring to reform our system of private bill legislation. They have confessedly one great advantage in dealing with this subject. Do what they will, they cannot make matters worse than they are at present. Nothing more burthensome to members of Parliament, more costly, more dilatory, and less fitted to deal satisfactorily with the questions submitted to them, than the committees of the Houses of Lords and Commons, can possibly be conceived. Yet, great as the evil is, no one has the courage—possibly, no one is able—to propose anything like a radical and fundamental change which might go to the root of the mischief. The new standing orders which have been adopted by the House of Commons, on the motion of Colonel Wilson Patten, are mere palliatives. Members will gain by the diminution of the number of gentlemen serving on a committee from five to four. Nor is it unlikely that a substantial saving of expense will be effected by intrusting a number of referees, to be named by the Speaker, with the duty of ascertaining certain matters of fact, upon which a committee will afterwards exercise its judgment. An inquiry before these referees, possessing professional knowledge, will be less formal, less elaborate, more continuous, and at the same time more searching, than an investigation of the same points by a number of members taken at hap-hazard from the House of Commons. At the same time, if care be not taken to confine the referees and the committees strictly to their allotted provinces—and if the latter bodies do not accept implicitly the decisions of the former on matters pertaining to them—the result will be that we shall have two inquiries instead of one, and that the remedy will be worse than the disease. Much will depend upon the manner in which the new standing orders are worked. But all the principal authorities on private bill legislation appear to think that they can be carried out with advantage both to the Legislature and the public. Looking to this concurrence of opinion, it is certainly desirable that the plan should have a fair trial. Even if it do not prove entirely successful, we shall gather some useful hints from its operation.

Under the fire of adverse criticism, to which it was subjected by the House of Commons, the Government have been obliged to withdraw the bill for carrying into effect a treaty with Prussia for the mutual extradition of criminals. Nor can there be any doubt as to the propriety of this course. Extradition treaties are excellent things in their way. It is very desirable that murderers, robbers, and other criminals of a like kind should be taken wherever they can be caught, and delivered up to condign punishment. But then it is necessary that there should be a common understanding between different countries as to what constitutes the offences in question. We cannot, for the sake even of obtaining the surrender of a murderer, consent to give up a man who has killed another in order to make his escape from slavery. It is better that a few of our garotters should transfer themselves to Prussia, and remain there undisturbed, than that we should be compelled to surrender exiles who are said to have committed robbery with violence, because in the course of an insurrectionary movement they had taken some forage from a Government store. We cannot allow ourselves to be made the means of arresting political refugees for the despotic governments, because, under some strained interpretation of a foreign law, they may have been guilty of offences which, although bearing the same name, are in England of a very different character. Nor can we consent that without proof—on the mere production of something called a conviction—our English magistrates and English police should be employed in arresting men who may in reality have committed no offence whatever—or at all events none, on account of which we should desire to refuse them an asylum in this country. The bill which has just been withdrawn—in order to save it from rejection—contained no sufficient safeguards against such abuses as we have indicated. It would, therefore, have been highly inexpedient to assent to a measure which might have compelled us to assist M. von Bismarck in the persecution of patriots.

Although the Confederate forces which entered Maryland have not attacked either Washington or Baltimore, the diversion has been perfectly successful in causing Grant to detach a considerable portion of his army from Petersburg. He appears to have been sufficiently weakened to encourage Lee to assume the offensive. Nor is it unlikely that he may be placed at a still further disadvantage. The Confede-

rate forces which have been North can return to Richmond before the troops which were sent to meet them get back to Petersburg, and Lee will be able to strike with his whole army at an enfeebled antagonist. The late movements may in this way exercise a permanent influence upon the fate of the campaign. But even up to the present time their results are not unimportant. They must have diffused such a feeling of insecurity through the Northern States as will scarcely allow Mr. Lincoln again to denude them of troops, for the purpose of throwing every available man against the Confederate entrenchments. The amount of booty which has been seized will be a great relief to the strain upon the Southern resources, especially if the stores which were collected at Martinsburg for General Hunter's army include a considerable quantity of warlike materiel. There can be no question that the raid, or whatever it may be called, under Ewell, has been conducted in a masterly manner. Marching in one body with great rapidity, the Confederate troops first swept Sigel's army and the other Northern troops out of their path. Having done this, they seem to have scattered, so as to extend themselves over as large a space of country as possible, retaining in hand, however, a sufficient number of men to deal with General Wallace. Then, when there was reason to believe that the arrival of reinforcements from Grant's army would make a further stay unsafe or undesirable, they must have been concentrated upon one or more points with admirable skill, for we hear of none of these parties being taken prisoners. Retiring across the Potomac in possession of their spoils, they have, by the celerity of their movements, hitherto defied Federal pursuit, and, by the aid of the railways, they will no doubt succeed in reaching their destination without material loss. One important point has been made tolerably clear by this expedition—the absence of any warlike enthusiasm on the part of the Northerners. It might have been expected that when the "sacred soil" was invaded the whole population would have rushed to arms; but nothing of the kind has taken place. The Governor of Pennsylvania has rated his people in the soundest and frankest way for their complete indifference to the fate of Mr. Lincoln and the capital; and, although the Governor of New York raised a strong force of militia, he preferred to keep it at home, as a menace to General Dix. With two of the most important Northern States thus apathetic in the cause, with Kentucky under martial law, and Mr. Vallandigham agitating Ohio, the domestic prospects of Federalism are not of the brightest kind.

THE LEGACY OF THE SESSION.

PARLIAMENT has finished its work for the year. Its great work, that by which it will be known in history, was indeed finished some weeks ago. It consisted only in negation. Government, left during the session to act on its own responsibility, had come to the conclusion to do nothing; and after a week of fierce debate, Parliament adopted its policy. But time cannot be blotted out by any resolution of man to leave it unemployed. Inaction has consequences as potent as action, and the future is moulded as much by what we fail to do as by what we do. Therefore we are freed from no responsibility and from no anxiety by the refusal to do anything. We are not withdrawn from participation in the common lot of mankind by the determination not voluntarily to share it. All the difference is that we await, instead of making, our fate. But the fate will come as surely. It is, therefore, of no less interest still than it was before, to cast our eyes into the future and try to read there what is in store for us, as the ultimate issue of the work of the expiring session.

There are, it is true, two readings of the response the oracle has given. By some in this country, by almost all abroad, the refusal of Parliament to intervene in favour of Denmark has been interpreted as a definite adoption of the absolute rule of non-intervention. The *Times*, a few days after the vote, quoted it as a condemnation of our efforts to suppress the slave-trade. The foreign journals, and apparently the foreign Ministers, look upon it as, at all events, a distinct intimation that this country will no more interfere in Europe, save with the tongue or the pen. And to those who can only see the palpable, as the foreign journals in their confessed ignorance, and the *Times* in its boasted knowledge of public opinion in this country, can only do, there is everything to support such a conclusion. The case in which we seem to have adopted it was a very strong one. Both the great political parties agreed, in this case, in

accepting the principle of non-intervention, though willing to assail each other for faults in its execution. Mr. Cobden, essentially the popular leader, laid down expressly the general rule of non-intervention in every case, and no one of weight expressly contradicted him. When, to these indications of the opinion of the country, are added the comments of its organs in the press, there is no wonder that the fixed belief abroad is that we have entered upon a new era of policy, that we have formally adopted the principles of the Peace party, and can never more be provoked by the spectacle of any violence, or suffering, or treaty-breaking, into a departure from our resolve to do nothing but trade.

Nevertheless it is most certain that such a belief is false. It is most certain, and the *Times* is already beginning to acknowledge the truth, that in the case of Denmark we have taken our line from a variety of motives, among which the abstract resolution against intervention has had scarcely appreciable force. For it is a fact that the whole country was, up to the close of the Conference, in expectation of war, and that at any time, from January to July, the announcement by a Minister of the Crown, that the fleet had sailed for the Baltic, and that the Guards had embarked for Jutland, would have been welcomed with exultant delight by the general public. It could not then be a deliberate adoption of a non-intervention policy that led to acquiescence by the public in the determination to remain at peace in this instance. Such acquiescence resulted solely from the very peculiar circumstances of the immediate case. The two great political parties are nearly equally balanced, and a small matter might give the superiority to either. They are both, in Parliament, aristocratic parties, and therefore to both the Royal favour is not a small but a great matter. Now in this instance it was known that the Royal favour would be given to the party of non-intervention, and withheld from the party of action. This decided the leaders. Neither would give to the other the advantage of the Queen's support, while drawing on itself the Queen's enmity. Meantime the trading part of the community, to which war would have been heavy pecuniary loss, took advantage of the leaders of parties declaring in favour of peace, to urge that war had no advocates deserving consideration; and, again, the leaders of parties pointed to the trading interest as an argument justifying their policy of peace. Thus the real opinion and voice of the country was obscured and misrepresented, and its course was decided by a concurrence of slight accidents, while the baser motives of the real agents hid themselves, for decency, under the shelter of sounding principles. But the principle of absolute and invariable non-intervention was not professed by any statesman save Mr. Cobden; and as in this respect he has no party at all, it was not announced on behalf of any section of the community.

But it is impossible not to see, in this discrepancy between what we are supposed to have determined and what we really have determined, matter for the gravest apprehension. If the Continental Powers have formed the belief that they will be unopposed by us whatever they may do, while we have come to no such conclusion, it is impossible not to see that we have laid a very trap for war. And the probability of war is enhanced by the fact that, while we do not mean absolute non-intervention in every case, we have laid down no sort of rule as to the cases in which we should intervene. Lord Russell, throughout his despatches, speaks of this eventuality as one which will be determined not by reason but by the "feeling" of the nation, if it is outraged too far. Lord Palmerston, in proclaiming peace, intimates that if Copenhagen were attacked, peace could not be preserved and intervention might become a duty. Nobody during the debate ventured to contradict this proposition. But nobody could assign any reason why we should intervene for Copenhagen and not for Jutland. The instinct of the people tells them, and speaks through their leaders, that there is a point at which we must fight or lose the name of men, and the position of a State. But no one has pointed out how reason directs instinct, and how it fixes the limits within which feeling may be a safe guide, but beyond which it would mislead. None of our statesmen has even pretended to assume that office which is the peculiar duty of statecraft,—the office of looking ahead at the dangers which may lie in our path, and so directing the vessel of the State that it shall avoid all risk of unexpected collision by holding a course so well defined, and showing a light so clear and known, that friends and foes may recognise and salute our flag whatever the gloom through which we sweep. They have, on the contrary, cut us adrift on a dark and stormy sea, with rudder unshipped and lights extinguished—trusting only to the use of the speaking-trumpet all round by Earl Russell to give warning to any who are within hail that

the huge hulk is forging ahead at the pleasure of the winds and tides.

The first-fruits of this blind and insensate system are already seen in the revival of the Holy Alliance. Whether its doctrines have found actual expression in the questioned despatches signifies little; they are obviously in force, whether they have or have not been reduced to words. Russia, Austria, and Prussia have plainly renewed in action the mutual guarantee of their territories, while leaving to each the option of acquiring new subjects, or imposing new fetters, according to its individual discretion. But, unhappily, this alliance which Mr. Canning denounced, and in some measure discomfited, finds in the England of Queen Victoria and Viscount Palmerston and Earl Russell no longer an opponent, but a member of the league. For when Russia inflicts new barbarities upon Poland, England stands by, and dares not say that Russia has forfeited her right to Poland under a treaty to which we were parties; and when Prussia seizes Denmark, England, as Lord Palmerston announced the other night, sees in this act of violence no reason to withdraw the guarantee which, in 1814, she gave to Prussia for the secure possession of her Saxon provinces. What is this but to tell these despot powers that we will not only not oppose them, but that we will give them still the protection of our power and influence if they should be attacked in turn while prosecuting their lawless aggressions. To this pass has our sway by dynastic sympathies at length brought us; and the present Parliament, which has listened to so many promises that Denmark would some time or other find support, and which has sanctioned the dishonouring of them all, on the pretence that we were not bound absolutely by the words of a treaty, now fitly closes its career with the intimation that we are engaged by the words of a treaty to guarantee Prussia, and that no bad faith, or violence or oppression on the part of that Power, will be allowed by our rulers as sufficient to release us from the bond.

GOVERNMENT UNTHRIFTINESS, OR CONTRACTORS' GREED?

MR. COBDEN has drawn the attention of the House of Commons to the enormous increase in the Government manufacturing establishments, and to the unsound principles on which they are conducted. He boldly advocates the principle that there shall be no Government manufacturing establishments to produce anything which can be obtained in the open market. To this rule he would admit no qualification or exception. "I advise you (he says) to place yourselves entirely in dependence upon the manufacturing resources of the country." He specified gunpowder, small arms, artillery, and the hulls of ships, as among the articles which the Government would be sure to get, if they made it known that they intended to depend upon private enterprise.

The Government have in former years relied upon contractors, more or less, for the supply of these articles. If Mr. Cobden had not been one of the most uncandid of advocates, he would have adverted to the difficulty of protecting the interests of the public in dealing with contractors. His portrait of the private trader is painted in the most flattering colours. It is, indeed, a picture without shadows and without wrinkles, after the pattern of the likenesses of the "Virgin Queen." The British contractor is content with a small profit. He scorns to defraud the Government. He would deserve to be hanged if, for the sake of swelling his gains, he sent in articles which imperilled the lives of British soldiers and seamen. And therefore such articles are never sent in. While the Government establishments are dilatory and inefficient, private firms never endanger the public interests by delay at critical moments, but may always be relied upon to supply what is wanted. The contract system, being open to public competition, can never be a system of virtual monopoly. The private contractor must necessarily produce more cheaply than the Government, and will, therefore, naturally charge less. Public manufactories are, in the nature of things, wasteful and inefficient, while private contracts are economical and reliable. Whether Mr. Cobden made out these assertions, or whether he did not, on the contrary, evince great dishonesty by suppressing all allusion to the frauds of contractors, let the reader decide.

The Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey had its origin in the report of a Royal Commission. In the year 1777, so many complaints were made of the powder supplied by the contractors to the Royal Navy, that a Commission was sent down to Plymouth to examine the powder put on board the Channel fleet. They found only four barrels of serviceable

powder in the whole fleet! Yet this was in time of war! Such an example of shameless and infamous rapacity would be almost incredible if the contract system in America were not at the present moment bearing similar fruits. The factory at Waltham Abbey was founded, and much of the gunpowder required for the army and navy has since been made there. It is built on all the newest and most approved principles, to insure safety, economy, and efficiency. The gunpowder made there is excellent, for the Government directors have no motive to turn out an inferior article. Still Waltham Abbey was never meant to be more than a check upon contractors, and it has been most effectual. The departments produce 14,526 barrels of powder, which they value at £34,747, and they declare that this powder, if supplied by private firms, would have cost £79,933, making a saving of £45,185. Mr. Cobden, on behalf of private makers, points out that nothing is set down for interest for capital, rent for land, or depreciation of plant. No doubt the balance-sheet would not be accurate if the Government now proposed to sink capital to buy land and to set up machinery. But the buildings are erected, the machinery is set up, and the saving of £45,185 represents the value of the article produced after deducting all the expense of raw material, wages, and management. Leaving out of view the vital importance of good gunpowder, and the success of Waltham Abbey as a check upon contractors, Mr. Cobden alleged no reason for making a single barrel of powder the less at Waltham Abbey.

The Government manufactory at Enfield, like the powder-factory at Waltham Abbey, was rendered necessary by the disgraceful frauds of contractors. It was first established during the Peninsular war, but at the beginning of the Crimean war was little more than a repairing factory for Government muskets. Mr. Monsell, who, in 1854, was Clerk of the Ordnance, told the House of Commons that at the breaking out of the Crimean war, small arms could not be procured from the English trade, and the Government were obliged to make contracts with small-arm manufacturers at Liege, St. Etienne, and in the United States. A Committee of the House of Commons was appointed to report, and on their recommendation £25,000 was voted for the purchase of machinery and the alteration of buildings. Lord Palmerston, in the following year, asked for a further grant. The system of manufacture at Birmingham required that a rifle should pass through the hands of ten or twelve makers, and an inspection was necessary in every stage of the process. Disputes between masters and workmen were of frequent occurrence, and a strike for wages was often one of the first results of a large Government order, and the breaking out of hostilities in any part of the world. The Government made a giant stride when it determined to apply the new American machinery to the construction of small arms at Enfield. The small experimental factory has now swelled into a vast establishment, able to supply 100,000 stand of arms a year. Each of these arms so exactly corresponds to pattern, that all the constituent pieces are interchangeable. Ten years after the alterations and additions at Enfield, the Birmingham makers have followed in the track of the Government, and have just built one of the finest factories in the kingdom, fitted up with machinery, and completing every process of manufacture under the same roof. The excellence of the article manufactured at Enfield is undeniable, and machinery can be devised by which every existing rifle may be altered and converted into a breech-loader, at a minimum of fourpence. Mr. Cobden does not accuse the Enfield establishment of waste, and even admits that it has paid itself. He does not, however, admit that the saving is £150,000 a year, as claimed by the department. Mr. Monsell asserts that the saving effected will pay two or three times over for the cost of the factory, since it has been established, and no one has challenged this position. Mr. Cobden naturally desires that these large profits should flow into the pockets of his clients, the private traders. But the House of Commons is not willing to ignore the experience of past delay, difficulty, and fraud, and not a single musket the less need be turned out at Enfield, for anything alleged by Mr. Cobden.

The question of the supply of ordnance was skilfully mixed up by Mr. Cobden with a question with which it has nothing to do. The Armstrong gun was adopted by the War Office, and guns that cost £2,500,000 have been manufactured in consequence. To test whether the Armstrong is the best gun, experiments are going on at Shoeburyness. Mr. Cobden assumes, most gratuitously, that it is not the best gun, and that this waste of £2,500,000 is attributable to the setting-up of a gun factory at Woolwich. But the two questions are perfectly distinct, and the one must not be

allowed to prejudice the other. The Armstrong was tried against the Whitworth and other guns, and declared by the War Office Committee in 1858 to be the best gun. They limited their approval to its use as a field-gun, and General Peel declares that it is still the best field-gun in the world. The Admiralty were urged to manufacture it for the navy. Who does not recollect that, night after night, a pressure was put upon the War Office and the Admiralty, in the House of Commons, to hurry on the manufacture of the Armstrong gun as much as possible. The invention of armour-plated ships changed the conditions of a naval gun. Great initial velocity was desired, and the old 68-pounder fired with high charges of powder, was found to smash the armour-plating better than rifled ordnance. The country and the House of Commons demanded, however, in 1858 and 1859, that we should have the best gun then known, and it was manufactured accordingly; but not fast enough to satisfy the public impatience.

The Government manufacture of ordnance is an entirely different question, and must be considered on its own merits of necessity, profit, and loss. Up to the time of the Crimean war, the Government had never cast an iron cannon or made shot or shell. The manufacture of ordnance had become a virtual monopoly, and not the less so because it was in the hands of three firms—the Low Moor Company, the Carron Works, and the Gospel-Oak Works of Messrs. Walker. There were miles and miles of ordnance in store at the royal arsenals, made by the above firms, when a demand arose for a rifled cannon. Just before this, the 13-inch contract mortars were bursting in all directions, and our artillery officers declared that the Government ought to have a foundry of its own, as a check upon contractors, and in order to secure a supply of serviceable and reliable ordnance. Mr. Monsell first established a small foundry. He watched the results, and, with Sir C. Trevelyan, went into every item of expense. He was encouraged, by the greater economy and efficiency of manufacture, to increase the foundry and extend its operations. Mr. Monsell asserts that guns are produced at Woolwich more cheaply than at Elswick, and that in two or three years there has been a saving of more than £200,000 in the manufacture of shells alone. The contractors ran up the price of shells enormously during the war, and yet a delay of six months frequently took place in the delivery. Mr. Cobden's system was in full operation; and it had nearly brought the Government and the nation to the brink of disaster and disgrace. When Sir W. Armstrong's rifled gun was invented, there was not a manufacturer in the country who knew how to make it, and thus, in the first instance, the Government were driven to Elswick and Woolwich.

When percussion-caps were applied to small arms, they were made by contract. It was found, however, that the contractors, regardless of the lives of our troops, adulterated the material for the sake of making a larger profit, and it became necessary to make the percussion-caps at the Woolwich laboratory. Mr. Cobden has no word of reprobation for the accused and unhallowed gains, which would leave brave men defenceless under an enemy's fire. Great improvements have been made of late years in fuses, rockets, and shells; but the work requires such minute accuracy of detail that it has been wisely determined to make these articles at the laboratory. Gun-carriages have a similar story of fraud to tell. They require to be of great strength and soundness. Field-gun carriages have to bear an enormous strain in passing at a rapid pace over broken, uneven, or rocky ground. A battle has often been won by bringing two or three field-pieces to play at the critical moment upon particular positions. In a retreat, thousands of lives may be lost by a faulty gun-carriage blocking up a narrow road. The contractors often sent in gun-carriages ill-made, and of unsound and unseasoned timber, whose defects, concealed under a coat or two of paint, could not be ascertained. There was a Commission of Inquiry in 1828, when the Duke of Wellington and Lord Hardinge insisted on the importance of the gun-carriage in the equipment of each piece of ordnance. There was another inquiry in 1848, and the result has been to show the absolute necessity that every part of a gun-carriage should be made under the eye of responsible Government officers.

Take, again, the gunboats made by contract during the Russian war. They were made of unseasoned materials, insecurely put together. If they had gone into active service, some would have foundered and gone to the bottom with every man on board. Mr. Cobden has no sympathy to waste upon brave men whose lives may be sacrificed to the cupidity of contractors; but he would have been terribly severe, we may be sure, upon the Government inspectors who had not detected bad timber and loose bolts. The scandal caused by the exposure of the

preserved meats is not yet forgotten. That was the work of a private contractor, who sent out unutterable abominations as food for our soldiers in the Crimea. The spades and picks that bent double in the hands of the sappers before Sebastopol were all provided by contract. The boots supplied for a regiment setting out for the East, and fortunately delivered before they left England, would have fallen to pieces in a day's march. Mr. Cobden in all these matters would leave our soldiers and sailors at the mercy of private traders. When mortars burst, and fuses fail to explode the shell,—when gun-powder is unserviceable,—when percussion-caps won't go off in the face of a charge of cavalry,—when gunboats built in private yards founder and sink,—when gun-carriages break down, and lose a battle or a campaign,—when engineering tools bend and snap,—when coats and shoes go to pieces, and a canister of preserved meat is found to consist of raw offal, Mr. Cobden is doubtless disposed to be very angry. He would find a victim, and accuse the Government system of inspection. But he would then be too late. The lives of soldiers and sailors should be as little as possible at the mercy of a greedy contractor and a corrupt or negligent inspector. The Government manufacturing establishments require to be most jealously watched. But, for anything that transpired during the debate, it may be doubted whether the unthriftiness of Government management is half so clearly made out as the greed and cupidity of Government contractors.

THE SHOEBOURNE TRIALS.

It is to be hoped that some good will come of the numerous experiments at Shoeburyness, upon which so much time and so much money are being spent. The Armstrong and Whitworth experiments still drag their weary length. In all probability, they will lead to less important conclusions than might have been hoped. As yet, all that seems to have been proved by them must be considered of minor consequence. The experiments with the 12-pounders have taught us that 12-pounders built and rifled by Mr. Whitworth will stand powder and fire with nearly the same accuracy as 12-pounders built and rifled by Sir William Armstrong. Should the Whitworth 70-pounders stand the ordeal equally well, we shall have the further advantage of knowing that Mr. Whitworth can build and rifle 70-pounders as well. Unfortunately, the conditions of the trial teach us very little more. The Whitworth guns are smaller in the bore than the corresponding Armstrong. The results that follow from the difference of bore might have been predicted beforehand, and are just what they always will be. A smaller bore implies a smaller sectional area of shot. The shot, in passing through the air, meets with less resistance, and flies farther at long ranges, when the charge of powder is the same. On the other hand, the larger bore implies a more destructive shell, and all the consequences that follow from it, as well as greater immunity from unsteadiness of flight in windy weather. Can Mr. Whitworth increase his bore to the size of the Armstrong bore without endangering the safety of his gun? Can the Armstrong gun increase its charge of powder above the Whitworth charge so as to equal the Whitworth gun in range? Should range at great elevations with these guns be thought advisable? The latter experiment, at all events, can easily be made. If so, it should undoubtedly be tried. Otherwise, the guns are not tested equally, and the comparison will only land us in the more general question of large and small bores; for the rifling of both competitors seemed sufficiently good for any small gun. The Committee would, perhaps, have been wiser, if, instead of leaving each of the competitors to produce any gun of any weight and bore he chose, to have fixed those points more definitely in the programme. In order to be fair, they might have ordered a large bore from Mr. Whitworth and a small bore from Sir William Armstrong. At present, we have lighter Armstrong large bores, and heavier Whitworth small bores. A composition of such a kind will never cut the Gordian knot; for it will be difficult to know how to estimate and set off the advantages of lightness and destructive effect against heaviness and length of range.

On other material points the Armstrong and Whitworth experiments will leave us in the dark. We knew already that on the Armstrong system of construction not merely 70-pounders, but 150-pounders, 300-pounders, and 600-pounders, can be, and are being, largely built, capable of being rifled on anybody's system. On the other hand, Mr. Whitworth has never produced, before last April, a 70-pounder of his own construction that will stand. 70-pounders cannot penetrate the *Warrior* target, and we must have still heavier guns for our navy and our forts. The Armstrong and Whitworth contest

leaves it in obscurity still whether Mr. Whitworth will be able to build them. It is possible, of course, that his mode of rifling may be good, and his system of construction bad. This is precisely the question which the present experiments will not solve. It may be, again, that Mr. Whitworth's rifling is good for little guns, but weakens heavy guns too much to permit of its being safely applied to them. Here, again, we shall learn nothing. Yet it is obvious that the questions are important; we can only regret that we see little chance of their being answered.

A more fruitful series of experiments to test various systems of rifling, as applied to heavy Armstrong guns, has been progressing for some time, and we are at last likely to see the Armstrong 600-pounder, which has been lying idle for two years, owing to the incomprehensible supineness of the Government, thoroughly and rigorously tested. It is clear that this gun, as far as power goes, can sink any iron ship that floats at the vast distance of two or even three miles. What is yet uncertain is, how far this monster gun will last. All that is needed is to fire it for some hundreds of rounds with cast-iron shot into the sea. What possible trial can be so simple? What all-important trial has ever been so foolishly and so needlessly delayed?

The experiments with the different systems of rifling as applied to heavy Armstrong guns seem to have been both interesting and successful. The Lancaster-Armstrong, if we are so to call it, eclipsed, in the opinion of all present, the Armstrong guns rifled on the Scott and Bashly-Britten principle—a triumph reflecting honour on Mr. Lancaster's patience and skill. We should be glad to see this Lancaster-Armstrong pitted thoroughly against the Shunt-Armstrong, and both tried against an Armstrong heavy gun rifled on the Whitworth principle. This is the only way of keeping separate the totally distinct questions of rifling or grooving and of construction. At present, the only system of construction for heavy guns fairly in the field is the Armstrong welded coil. What may be done in the future, when either iron or steel enters on a new stage of manufacture, is, of course, another thing. Adopting the welded-coil construction as a basis on which to build the gun, we still want to compare the Armstrong rifling with the Lancaster and with the Whitworth. Which of the three riflings is most liable to foul and to jam with firing? which wears the gun the most? which is most capable of being adapted to powerful shells? All these problems require to be solved in public. At the present moment, we believe that information on the point is in the hands of the Government, which is not in the hands of the public at large. Why does no one move for it in the House of Commons? Everybody is interested in knowing what are the present data on the subject, and how far experiments have gone. If we are to have heavy guns we ought to have them speedily; and yet it is, above all things, essential that such questions should be carefully gone into.

"JEAMES" AMONG THE LADIES.

A RECENT "mysterious" marriage between two members of the English aristocracy has not only, it seems, produced a "profound sensation" at the West-end, but a still more profound sensation among the fashionable journals of the day. Jeames has been altogether overwhelmed by the event. Language fails him when he thinks of the social tempest that has lately broken over Mayfair, and he gives vent to his feelings in his usual tone of manly and honest pathos. Everybody recollects in Mr. Thackeray's tale—when the noble *fiancée* of Mr. Jeames Yellowplush deserted him for the arms of a gallant captain—how the representatives of the press did their duty on the occasion, and pursued the fugitive lovers on their road to Gretna-green. The assiduity of the press has not declined, it seems, during the years that have elapsed since that romantic history. The foremost place upon the occasion, as is right and natural, must be assigned to the "ladies' newspaper." The *Queen* devotes a long and instructive article to the theme, which begins with the family of the bride, and does not leave off till it has presented its readers with a veracious account of all the proceedings, from the marriage presents that were to have been presented, down to the four-wheeled cab, which conveyed the truant bride from Marshall & Snelgrove's, in Oxford-street, to the doors of St. George's, Hanover-square. As usual, Justice is done to the charms of the lady, to her figure, and her eyes:—

"Among the belles of our English aristocracy, few of late years have created such a sensation on her *début* as Lady Florence Paget, the youngest daughter of the Marquis of Anglesea. Gifted with the here-

ditary beauty of a family to a rare extent, her *petite* figure and dove-like eyes caused her at once to become the rage of the park, the ball-room, the opera, and the croquet-lawn. These personal charms were not a little enhanced by the unaffectedness of her manner and extreme good-nature, which caused her to become the idol of her father and of her household. Deprived of a mother's care at an early age, her education was hardly so advanced as might have been anticipated from her sphere in life, and she seemed to have made Diana Vernon her model."

Around such a centre of attraction, it is but natural that suitors of every degree should have gathered in numbers. The *Queen* newspaper depicts their conflux, as Herodotus might have drawn the gathering of the noble guests from every quarter of the globe to the marriage of Hippocleides. Its authority seems to be the accurate and inquiring Jeames, who has communicated his data to fairer and more feminine correspondents. Among the throng, says the *Queen*, was a gentleman "possessed of estates in Lincolnshire which produce him a rental of nearly forty thousand pounds, and endowed him with every quality to render him a desirable parti." If so, all that can be said is that it speaks volumes for the Lincolnshire soil. Why Lincolnshire property should produce a rental of a high figure may easily be conceived; but it remains for the pen of Jeames to explain why Lincolnshire property also endows a man with mental and moral qualities. Such, however, according to Jeames, appears to be the case, and, armed with all the virtuous influence of the Lincolnshire air, the gentleman in question appeared at the shrine of the dove-like Diana. Rumours of an engagement appeared in the papers, though only to be contradicted. For a knowledge of how the Lincolnshire gentleman spent a bachelor long vacation we are indebted to the same observant historiographer. He went on a shooting tour in India, and, though Jeames does not give us the contents of his portmanteau, nor the name of his valet-de-chambre, he presents us with the name of the gentleman who acted as the travelling companion. Last May the roving eye of Jeames saw the pilgrim return from Eastern climes, like a moth fluttering towards the candle of his destiny. The lady was still unwedded, and accepted the returning lover in a way which, we are happy to learn, gave the greatest satisfaction to the family—for he was a young man, says Jeames, "of great promise, and by his ample means could give Lady Florence a position which she had a right to look for, although she could bring him no dowry."

The fluent pen of Mr. Jeames Yellowplush pauses here to survey for a moment the outward happiness and good fortune of the affianced pair. They performed in common all the conventional rites of attached but not yet married lovers; they drove together in the parks, and often, perhaps, has the manly and variegated figure of the recumbent Yellowplush—seated behind some chariot of distinction—turned its omniscient eye in the direction of their drag or their barouche:—

"At a fashionable jeweller's at the West-end Lady Florence's jewels, the gift of her betrothed, were displayed to all comers, and the trousseau engaged the attention of the first *modistes*. Presents came to her in abundance, the servants even subscribing for a silver teapot, sugar-basin, and cream-jug."

If, under the sad circumstances that ensued, these gifts became altogether useless or unnecessary, it is still a consolation to all parties to think that the servants' hall has done its duty, Jeames has spoken up for them, and the record of their fidelity and liberality will last as long as the teapot and the sugar-basin. Unhappily, a cloud came over so bright a picture. It is man who proposes, but it is woman who disposes. It was not the will of the stars that the Lincolnshire Hippocleides should attain the object of his chaste ambition. On Friday night the truthful historian relates how both of the *fiancées* sat together in an opera-box. True to his honourable mission, Jeames spied them from the adjacent pit. On Saturday morning the dove-like Diana was another's. She had, indeed, united her fortunes to those of one of the tenants of that fatal opera-box. But, alas! it was not to Hippocleides: it was to a noble conspirator who sat on the other side of the lady through the opera, unsuspected and designing. Marshall & Snelgrove's was the rendezvous at which Helen finally deserted Menelaus. She entered boldly at one door—she made her exit at another; and a four-wheeler, the number of which Jeames does not tell us, but which it would be folly to suppose he does not know, conveyed her to an impromptu altar at St. George's. It will be a warning to all bachelors how they lightly drive Dianas to the shop of Messrs. Marshall & Snelgrove. A warehouse which has two doors, in the annals of romance will hereafter be as justly suspected as a ladder of ropes.

With true delicacy Mr. Yellowplush lets fall a curtain on the distress produced in all aristocratic circles by the elope-

ment. That the deserted suitor is touched by the calamity Mr. Yellowplush admits; but he adds that his feelings have been "in some measure consoled by the assurance of his friends that it is all for the best." This is the same kind of consolation that is so constantly and so liberally offered by the chorus in a Greek play to all distressed individuals, only the chorus is usually less successful. The thought, however, appears, according to Jeames, to have fallen with peculiar freshness on the wounded heart of Hippocleides. It is a happiness to learn that a medicine which is so easily and so cheaply supplied has worked so wonderful a cure. For one moment before he closes the tale Mr. Yellowplush lifts the veil to show us the group of the family of the bride, as they were to be seen when they received news of the catastrophe:—

"Her ladyship's brother and brother-in-law, Lords Uxbridge and Winchelsea, heard of the marriage by accident at the pigeon-shooting match at Hornsey."

When Mr. Dickens next depicts the confusion of the gentlemanly cousin of the bride at her sudden elopement, he will know that a pigeon-match is the proper scene at which the intelligence should reach them.

BATHING AT THE SEASIDE.

LONDON has grown much larger, and the Thames much dirtier, and the principles of health have become better understood, and the terrible battle of existence is more fiercely and eagerly and closely contested now than in the days, not very long gone by, when the frugal Mrs. Gilpin proposed to her well-to-do husband, John, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of their married life, and signalize the very first holiday they had ever taken, by a simple dinner at the suburban village of Edmonton. The modern Mrs. Gilpin would be more likely to address her husband at breakfast somewhat in this fashion:—"It's two years, dear, since we had a dip in the sea. Last year, after the failure of Whirligig & Grumby, you did not think it prudent to increase our expenditure until we had pulled up those losses; but we have been so fortunate since, that I really think we can afford a month at Ramsgate, or, at least, at Margate, this year. It would do the children a world of good, and I am sure no one wants a little rest, fresh air, and recreation, more than you do yourself, you dear, hard-working slave of a man!" To which the modern "linen-draper bold," who, instead of being "a train-band captain," is a sergeant in a Volunteer corps, might reply—"Except yourself, you dear, devoted slave of a wife and mother!" And thereupon the trip to the seaside is settled.

How did our ancestors get on without trips to the seaside? How did people contrive to live without spending at least one month of the twelve at a watering-place? It is surprising what a modern invention, historically speaking, the English system of sea-bathing is. We pride ourselves, as a nation, upon our cleanliness in all things; but still more, if possible, upon the attention which we pay to the purification of our persons than to our clothing and our residences. It is difficult to realise the fact that our marine watering-places are all of modern growth, and that our grandfathers and grandmothers were educated in a hydrophobic terror of water, and an avoidance and exclusion of fresh air and ventilation, which are not to be accounted for by any theory of folly and ignorance combined with which we are acquainted. Not that all English watering-places are only of the modern growth of one or two generations. The inland mineral springs, which were the foundation of medicinal bathing, are nearly all of ancient date; but their proper and decorous use bears no proportion to the length of their existence. As to the seaside resorts, it is not wonderful that, in the old days of naval warfare and piratical prowlings, people whose business did not naturally compel them to live near the coast kept as far out of reach of chance visitors from the ocean as possible.

Mr. D. Urquhart, the champion of the Eastern mode of bathing, whose writings upon the subject induced an Irish physician, Dr. Barter, of Blarney, to erect the first Turkish bath ever seen in Christian Europe, gives an amusing account of the comments made by a Turkish lieutenant of a man-of-war who, whilst smoking, was watching the ablutions of an officer of a British man-of-war, which lay near. "Allah be praised!" he said, taking the amber from his mouth; "that poor devil wishes to be clean, if he only knew how. See—how he dabbles, and throws back upon his face and neck the foul, thick, greasy, nasty puddle. And now he rubs down and presses into his skin all that filth with a damp towel, and feels quite satisfied that he is washed and clean. Allah be praised!" But the Turkish bath is only a form or a copy of

the old Roman and Grecian hot-air bath, and, how charming soever may be its cleansing and restorative powers, the thought of it is by no means agreeable or refreshing in these scorching, sunny days of summer. Far more tempting are the cool splash of the ocean brine, and that peculiarly fresh and invigorating odour which comes from the open sea. Even as we sit broiling and working, with the yellow atmosphere of London stretching away over our field of vision, we fancy a faint scent of the sea-breeze comes in at the open window, and intimates that a delightful "header" may be within the range of possibility. Unless cleanliness be accepted as a very modern handmaiden of godliness, how are we to judge of the piety of our forefathers? The luxury of the heathen Romans in their baths and modes of bathing was so offensive and repugnant to Christian morality, propriety, and decency, that studied neglect of the person became a distinguishing characteristic of those early Christians who set themselves most zealously in pious opposition to Pagan customs. And when we remember that the ancient name of a public bath has come down to our own times as a synonym for a place of the most infamous resort, we shall cease to wonder at the long and stern contest which Christianity has been forced to wage against a system of deep demoralization fostered under the semblance of cleanliness, and at the strange tales of the boastful negligence of washing by even eminent and learned churchmen, laymen, and ladies of the early and the middle ages. The plain truth is, that with the ancient Romans bathing was resorted to, not for ablution, but for luxury. Those masters of the world, when they abandoned the grim severity of their republican manners, and adopted the sensualism and effeminacy of the Lydians and Sybarites, spent a large part of their time in baths, which they adorned with the most profuse splendour, making them shine with costly marbles and precious stones, with silver and with gold. Here they would sit for hours, reading, conversing, receiving friends, and killing time in a hundred ways, of which the least objectionable was mere indolence. We have but to read Juvenal to know the corrupt uses to which the system was turned; and there can be no doubt that the vicious indulgences which cloaked themselves under a pretext of salubrity had much to do with the decay and ruin of the vast Roman empire. The strong, hardy, and withal dirty Northmen seem to have extinguished the system of hot bathing in which Imperial Rome had so long revelled; but for some reason or other it survived in the Eastern Empire—probably because that part of Europe was less influenced than the West by the example of barbarian manners. When the Turks took Constantinople in the fifteenth century, they were as rough, unkempt, and unwashed as any Goth or Hun that ever marched under Alaric or Attila; but they were not slow in adopting the system of bathing which they found in full existence among the people they had conquered, and it must be added that they were equally quick in assimilating those vices which the supple Greek had preserved through all the changes of government and religion. The Turks became externally clean, and internally, in many cases, foul enough. The excessive stress which their faith lays upon personal ablutions made them the more ready to adopt a system which they found made to their hands; and it has thus come to pass that the luxury of bathing has never quitted the shores of the Bosphorus from the days when the rude Thracian first softened his primeval manners to the existing moment. The "Turkish Bath," as we have said, is but the ancient Greek or Roman bath revived.

This, however, is not what an Englishman understands by bathing. The Romans had their hot-baths in this island, and a species of sweating-bath has always been known among the Irish peasantry; but the modern Briton's idea of a bath is for the most part associated with a cold plunge in the river or the sea. At this time of year, thousands of Londoners are looking forward with eager anticipation to the salt sting and savour and renovating freshness of a dip in the cool waves off Margate, or Ramsgate, or Brighton, or Scarborough, or Hastings, or some other of the many delightful watering-places with which our shores are thickly sprinkled. Many of our weary workers are off already; many more will depart in the coming weeks of August, and until the autumn is far advanced the lodging-house keepers will know no rest from their profitable toils. London is already thinning; in a short time longer, the Strand and Cheapside, Oxford-street and the parks, will exhibit an unmistakable and most obvious difference in the number of persons passing to and fro. Belgravia will be a desert—Tyburnia like a city in a fairy tale, where all the people are mysteriously asleep, and the gallant young prince has not yet arrived to waken them up by kissing the lips of the somnolent beauty. It would be curious if we could have, some census year, a supplementary statement of the number

of persons sleeping in the metropolis on the night of the 31st of August, in addition to the usual figures with reference to the 30th of April. We should then see the extent of our annual depletion. A division into districts would hardly be necessary. We know already, but too well, that this yearly refreshment of body and soul is only for the well-to-do. The Western section of London contributes by far the largest contingent; the South also pours forth its holiday seekers; but the North and East have little share in the observance. Mile-end and Bethnal-green are represented at the sea-side by few indeed, save travelling showmen, itinerant nigger minstrels, and nomadic swell-mobsmen. Victoria Park is not abandoned with the advancing season to disconsolate nurserymaids and misanthropical "keepers," like Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, but flourishes as gaily and is as well attended in September as in May. This restriction of a good and necessary thing to the minority is one of the saddest considerations in connection with the autumnal period of recruiting. There is no time of rest and refreshment and oxygenization of the blood for those who most sorely need the change. Happily, however, the railway system of late years has done something towards redressing this evil. The excursion-trains, every now and then, remind us with hideous abruptness that we are all mortal; but they enable, at a moderate expense, large bodies of our poorer fellow-creatures to spend seven or eight hours in the green rural places far away, or by the life-breathing margin of the sea, and thus allow us, who have more time and money at our disposal, to feel a little less uneasy in our consciences as we lounge, in easy coat and wide-awake hat, within sight of the French coast, or on the shores of the German Ocean, or by the long-rolling waves and mighty murmur of the Atlantic deep.

THE COW AND THE COCK.

THE triumphant success of Mr. Bass's bill to relieve Mr. Babbage from Italian organ-grinders has given new life to all persons of susceptible nerves. A medical gentleman has written to the *Times* to say that there are other noises as objectionable as the noise of hurdy-gurdies, which ought as clearly to be suppressed. He has taken two somewhat singular examples. Not long ago a literary gentleman in Belgravia rushed into the room where he was conversing, watch in hand, and complained bitterly of some Cochinchina fowls which had just crowed an unconscionable number of times in so many given minutes. They belonged to the coachman next door, and their unseasonable genius for rapid crowing had rendered the literary gentleman's study all but uninhabitable. Of all birds, one might have imagined that the cock was one which gave the least trouble in the metropolis. Early risers in London are oftener roused by the matutinal policeman than by the matutinal fowl; and if cocks are at all necessary to the existence of fresh eggs, appearances, at all events, are against the theory that cocks haunt either the City or the West-end in objectionable numbers. It ought, therefore, to be some consolation to the literary gentleman to feel that cocks under his study-window implied eggs for breakfast somewhere in the vicinity; and a generous soul would have sacrificed a few minutes of repose for the sake of knowing that Cochinchina was contributing something to the comfort of the family next door. The country is said to be the place for poets. From the time when Virgil sang of rural pleasures till the present, probably no votary of literature has ever gone so far as to complain of the town for being in one important particular somewhat like the country. It is plain that the literary gentleman has neither been born in Arcadia, nor ever slept upon Parnassus. Minerva's owl, put to flight by the presence of the cock, is an event at which every poet, from Hesiod downwards, would laugh outright. Any author of genius would have considered proximity to even one stray cock as a sort of healthy literary irritation, calculated to recall every kind of poetical association, from Horace's "Sabine Farm" down to Gray's "Elegy." The cock is a far more enlivening idea than the cockney. Dr. Johnson loved the latter, but the Muses would be unanimously in favour of the former. Even Mr. Babbage himself—little affinity as there is between the calculating machine and poetry of any description—could not but be all the better for an occasional crow. The medical gentleman who writes to the *Times*, and his literary friend, are of a different opinion. The author cannot abide a sound which interferes with the flow of his ideas and the movement of his pen. The medical gentleman goes farther, and thinks that the sound is prejudicial to health. In humble imitation, we presume, of Socrates, he would sacrifice the cock to Æsculapius.

The medical gentleman's story of the cock would not be perfect if it did not contain a story of a cow also. It is fortunate he did not live in the days of Tristram Shandy: he would have fallen under Yorick's notice as a concoctor of the species of anecdote usually denominated the "cock-and-bull." A vestryman, we are told, complained to him, not many days ago, of a cow and fowls being kept in a stable behind his house, which disturbed his sleep so much as to interfere with his health. "There are many single cows so kept in Belgravia," and, continues the medical gentleman, very much as if he was writing of the buffalo or some other ferocious and terrible creature, "they say that a lonely cow is much more noisy than when with others." What with birds and what with cattle, if this account be true, Belgravia is rapidly becoming a fashionable prairie. It produces in large quantities the domestic barn-fowl, the Cochinchina, the cow, and very possibly other strange animals of the sort. Not many years ago there was an excellent lady who kept a cow in Brighton in her cellar. Like the cow in Belgravia, it was a "lonely cow." Its plaintive lowings might be heard below the dining-room floor of the adjacent house, more especially on Sunday afternoons. The unearthly position of the sound was, perhaps, somewhat inconvenient to the neighbours; but it was generally felt, that if the cow did not object to living in the cellar, it would ill-become outsiders to interfere. The medical gentleman's friend seems to have had a still smaller grievance; for the metropolitan cow was not a subterranean nor even an intramural cow: it lived in the stable as any respectable horse might have done; and the noise of a cow in a stable cannot, at the worst, be much louder than the noise of a horse under similar circumstances. The medical gentleman assures us, however, that it is not the vestryman's vivid imagination which has lent terror to the sound—he himself has heard the cow making a "terrible" noise. Under these circumstances, it is difficult to console him. For the vestryman's sake, we can only hope that the cow will not have a calf. The objection entertained by the vestryman does not appear, like the former objection to the cock, to be of a literary character. The literary gentleman hates being interrupted at those moments which, in the language of the poet, he passes "sleepless himself to give his readers sleep." The vestryman is one of those who cares less about giving sleep than about enjoying it. The cow interferes not with his waking but with his sleeping thoughts—it recalls him from those regions of fancy where rates are never known, to an existence of gas companies and water-rates, where collectors are for ever calling, and pipes habitually are out of order. This is a complaint, accordingly, of a more tangible description. The literary author may easily be answered by the simple observation that he does not take the cock from the right point of view. Cocks to a healthy mind appear calculated rather to stimulate than to impede imaginative wit; but to a vestryman, for whom the country has no charms, the cow is doubtless an inconvenient and unsatisfactory neighbour during the night; and if vestrymen ever think, the thought that the cow is lonely doubtless adds one more ingredient to the lamentable feelings with which its lowing fills him. There is only one thing to be said, namely, that that awful animal the cow is in all probability less awful than the pig. So long as Belgravia confines itself to vaccine torture, the vestryman ought to thank his stars, and to comfort himself with the consideration that in some respects a Belgravian vestryman is not so badly off as a Surrey farmer. Cows in an adjacent stable and Cochinchina hens on the next verandah are possibly calculated to be at times a nuisance; but cows and hens are innocuous compared to some quadrupeds that might occupy their room.

The principle on which all life must be conducted, more especially in large cities, is the principle of giving and of taking. A lonely cow is a discomfort to a Belgravian vestryman; the cock agitates the London author, especially when it crows as quickly as a breech-loading rifle. Other noises are evidently as disagreeable to other people; and it may be conceded that all noises are disagreeable to invalids. Yet omnibuses must roll, cabs must ply, and railways must whistle, or the lives of the passengers would be in danger. Crowded thoroughfares, and noise and bustle, are incidental to a residence in a town. Pianos, flutes, and violins inside, and the roar of a street outside, are to many people the conditions under which they must live. A man might as well write to the *Times* to object that the family next door perform upon the German flute, as to object that in the opposite stable there is a lonely cow. The law cannot, and ought not to interfere. *De minimis non curat lex*. If, indeed, the discomfort is prejudicial to health and rational peace, the law steps in. If the

lonely cow amounts to a nuisance, the law courts are open to the sleepless vestryman. If it does not amount to a nuisance, what earthly use is there in writing to the *Times*?

THE INDIA MEDICAL BILL.

THE parsimony exhibited by Government towards the medical officers serving in the army, and the low consideration in which it has seemed good, both to the Government and to their brother officers non-medical, to hold these gentlemen, have worked out their inevitable results, and it is now not possible to provide the army with a sufficient number of surgeons competent to discharge the difficult duties which fall upon them. It has long been known that sickness is more fatal to an army than the most effective enemy it can meet; and one would think, looking to this fact, that with the sincere interest which is felt for the health and comfort of the soldier, measures would be taken to secure him the best medical aid that could be had, and that to this end the post of surgeon and assistant-surgeon would be made sufficiently lucrative and honourable to attract to the service the best medical aid that could be obtained. But this has not been done, nor does there appear to be any intention that it shall be done. The consequence of this short-sighted policy is, that able surgeons will not take service in the army. In the Bengal service there are twenty vacancies, and in other parts of India there is a similar want of medical officers. In the last three examinations for the Indian service there have been for 90 vacancies only 72 candidates, of whom only 50 succeeded in passing. Thus the supply for the last eighteen months has fallen short of the demand by fifty men.

Under these circumstances, Sir Charles Wood hit upon the notable expedient of filling up the vacancies, and of supplying the Indian army generally for the future with men who are not qualified. For that purpose, he introduced a bill into Parliament which proposed to dispense with competitive examinations, and to enable the Secretary of State, and, subject to his revision, the governors of the Indian provinces also, to make their own regulations for the appointment of medical officers. This was necessary, Sir Charles contended, because competitive examinations have failed. But the truth is they have not failed. They have been successful in keeping out of the army any but competent men. Their fault, indeed, is that they have been too successful; for they have also shown that a sufficient number of such men will not enter a service in which they find neither their due rank nor a proper reward. The conclusion is inevitable that the bill was meant to open the service in India to a lower class of men than could enter it under the system of examination; in other words, to put into the service a body of officers who deserve nothing better than the pay and the treatment which are in store for them. This would have been to reduce the medical department of the Indian army to that low condition in which in times past it merited both obloquy and parsimony.

It is true Sir Charles Wood professed that his object was to enable assistant surgeons in the general army to volunteer into the Indian branch. This would have been a satisfactory explanation, were it true that the general army is overstocked with medical officers, or can easily be supplied with them. But the same objections—the unworthy treatment and poor pay the medical officer receives—apply equally in both cases, and there is quite as much difficulty in supplying the one as the other. To obtain a sufficient number of officers for the general army, Government has been compelled to extend the age of admission, first, to twenty-five, and latterly to forty, and they have even been compelled to introduce an entirely new class of officers entitled acting-assistant surgeons. The bill, we are happy to say, was defeated on Monday, though only by a majority of two.

The true way to meet this difficulty is to pay medical men in the army liberally, and to see that they are treated as they deserve. Such a course recommends itself alike on grounds of economy, humanity, and justice. Nothing can be more unfair than to treat gentlemen of education, exercising the high functions of medical officers, unworthily; nor can there be greater waste or grosser inhumanity than to intrust the health and lives of our soldiers to incompetent hands.

THE YELVERTON CASE.

By a majority of three to one the House of Lords has decided that the decision of the Scotch Court in Mrs. Theresa Yelverton's favour must be reversed; so there is an end of the great Yelverton case. The Lord Chancellor stood alone—for Lord Brougham, who was of opinion that there was a marriage *per verba de presenti*, was obliged to leave the House—in regarding Mrs. Yelverton as the lawful wife of the "hon." and disreputable Major. Into the arguments he advanced in favour of his view of the case we shall not enter, nor shall we meddle with those which induced Lords Wensleydale, Chelmsford, and Kingsdown to adopt the opposite view. But it is obvious that a state of law which could divide the highest court in Scotland and the highest in the United Kingdom, on the important point whether a woman is or is not married, is not fit for a civilized country. Though Lord Brougham's opinion does not "count," it is none the less entitled to be taken into consideration, as showing the excessive uncertainty which attaches to the Scotch law of marriage. On the appeal to the Judges of the First Division of the

Inner House in Scotland, an interlocutor was made, declaring Mrs. Theresa Yelverton to be lawfully married by a majority of two against one. In the House of Lords, the majority in reality, though not in law, is three against two. In either case there is a majority of only one: in Scotland for the marriage, in the House of Lords against it. Lord Chelmsford, it is true, protested against the Lord Chancellor's citing Lord Brougham's opinion, as irregular; but Lord Chelmsford did not know what he was talking about. The practice is regular, and not infrequent, and, in fact, there have even been cases in which the written opinion of an absent lord has been read.

The case has now been so many years in litigation, that we should think it must be a relief even to Mrs. Yelverton to have it finally disposed of. Whether she was married legally or not, we presume there can be no doubt that she thought she was; and it is at all events a vindication of her character, that in the only trial in which her case was investigated by the sole satisfactory test—the collocation of documentary and oral evidence—she came out clear from the stain which Major Yelverton would have fixed upon her after the most searching cross-examination, while the gentleman certainly presented himself in a most pitiable aspect. It is also a consolation to hear that two Scotch judges, with the Lord Chancellor of England and Lord Brougham, hold that she was legally married. That she acted prudently or becomingly, is more than we can say; that she loses a bad bargain in losing the Major we think everyone but the Major himself will be disposed to admit.

But it is not the dispute between her and him which concerns us now. We have to say, in the first place, that there should be some assimilation of the mode by which such causes as the one now terminated should be tried; and in the next, that the law of marriage in the three countries should also be assimilated, so that a man or woman may know whether he or she is married or not. Had Major Yelverton and the lady now pronounced not to be his wife been subjected to examination before the House of Lords, we should have been certain that the House had before it every possible means of getting at the truth. We cannot, of course, say what would have been the result in that case; but it is clear that written depositions never can carry with them the value of oral testimony. A court beyond which there is no final appeal, no power of doing justice between the parties, should exhaust every means of getting at the truth. For the question it has to decide is not—at least ought not to be—whether upon certain evidence the Court below has given a correct decision, but whether the matters in issue are true or false. This may not be a lawyer's view of the matter, but it is the common-sense view. But, above all things, let us have one law of marriage for one people, not three different laws for three sections of a United Kingdom.

PUBLICATION OF BANNS.

BUT for the disreputable character which Mrs. Wells bore before her marriage with Mr. George Henry Wells, we might feel inclined to be indignant at the sentence which has pronounced her not only not to be Mrs. Wells, but never to have had any right to that name after having borne it for some years. Bad as she was, however, she was not worse than the youth who had the good taste to select a wife from the streets, and who, after living with her for three years, returned to Paterfamilias, and disclosed to that astute gentleman the fact that, with her knowledge, he had married her not as Mr. George Henry Wells but only as Mr. Henry Wells. A marriage so solemnized, it appears, is simply no marriage at all. And by this beautiful provision of law it is possible for any scamp who can prevail on a young girl to run away with him, to satisfy her conscience and yet leave a door open by which, when he is tired of her, he can cry "off!" This is bigamy and seduction made easy. A fellow bad enough to make the attempt would have no difficulty in persuading a girl, or even a woman, who "loved not wisely but too well," to consent that their banns should be published with the suppression of one of his names, or under a false name, in order to deceive Paterfamilias, who had threatened to cut him off with an angry shilling. The consent given, the marriage is null and void; and if there have been children during the cohabitation of the parties, they are illegitimate.

Such a state of the law is atrocious; and we are astonished that it has not been extensively resorted to by unprincipled men, as a means of committing bigamy or seduction according to Act of Parliament. The cheat is so easy. Probably not one woman in a thousand knows that a concealment of the kind in question vitiates the marriage contract. A woman may live with her supposed husband for years, and their children may grow up about them to find, perhaps twenty years after the marriage ceremony, that there has been no marriage at all. We have only to suppose the woman ignorant and compliant, and the man a scoundrel—and of either type the individuals are abundant—and the law of marriage offers ample opportunity, by the suppression or addition of a "Charles" or a "Henry" to a mock marriage, which is taken in good faith by all but the party who has, perhaps, the evidence in his pocket-book that it is null and void.

The miserable quibble is aggravated in the case before us by the fact that the young man who has allowed himself to be put in the witness-box to repudiate his wife, seems to have acted in the matter contrary to his wish. The petition for a declaration of nullity of marriage was promoted by his father. His share in the proceeding

was to come forward and swear that he and Martha Cottam consented that he should be married to her under the name of Henry, she knowing that his name was George Henry. Even after the petition was filed he wrote to her, professing his continued devotion to her, acknowledging that he had treated her badly, and promising that he would "put her name before the world pure and undefiled;" in another letter, to show what a renovated state of mind he had entered upon, he informed her that he had given up novel reading, and had taken to the study of man; and in one still later, he reminded her that he had "promised to coronet her dear brow," and reproached himself as a wretch and a villain for having "listened to the promptings of ambition, and deserted an idolized wife." Whether all this means that, having proved her not to be his wife, he will now marry her in both his Christian names, we cannot pretend to say. But the fact that, with these sentiments towards her, it was possible for his father to intervene and separate them, throws an additional light upon the injustice of the law by which this case has been decided. Under it, a man, who is scamp enough, may marry a dozen times over. He may squander his wife's fortune, and then repudiate her. Is it too much to ask, if such a law is to remain upon the statute-book, that clergymen and registrars should be compelled to warn those who come before them to be married, that the concealment or addition of a christian name, or any falsification of a christian name or surname, by consent of both parties, will render the marriage void?

OFFICIAL ARBITRATORS.

WE feel confident that a vast deal of litigation might be avoided if persons having disputes would agree to refer them at once, not to a mutual friend, but to a perfect stranger, and not to any stranger, but one of approved skill and judgment holding the position of a recognized and official referee. As a rule, men are averse to go to law; but, if neither will give way, there is no help for it. Few men can see how much may be urged against their view of their own case. But a skilled barrister or solicitor, who devoted himself to this sort of practice, could judge dispassionately between the disputants; and, in fact, many causes are decided in this way by reference, but only after hostile relations have been well established and costs incurred. Why not go to the barrister in the first instance? At present they cannot, for professional etiquette forbids him to receive them. They can only reach him through an attorney on either side, and the process is neither speedy nor cheap. Yet we constantly see cases settled in court which could just as well have been settled before an angry letter had been written or a writ issued, had there been the legal machinery. On the Northern Circuit, last week, there was a case of this kind, originating in a dispute about the letting of an estate in Scotland, by Captain Baring to Captain Meade. How these gentlemen ever came to stand towards each other in the relation of plaintiff and defendant the report does not inform us. But it is clear, from the letters which passed between them before proceedings were commenced, and which do the highest credit to their gentlemanly feeling, that their differences might readily have been arranged by such a reference as we suggest. Who disturbed that amicable state of feeling, who interpolated the first spark of wrath, nursed it to keep it warm, and inflamed it till it burst forth into pleadings, we cannot say. All we know is, that when Captain Baring's counsel read the letters in court, in the hope that Captain Meade would consent to return to the spirit in which they were written, Captain Meade, like a gallant gentleman, at once agreed to do so, and the case, which never should have come into court, walked amicably out of it. But these two soldiers, who in the beginning were willing to admit that their difference was a blunder, and that there was not the slightest basis for a thought of ill-will between them, had actually been brought before Baron Pigott on an issue, amongst others, of fraud! We congratulate them on the discretion with which Mr. Temple, for the plaintiff, appealed to the defendant's good sense and good feeling, and we compliment the defendant on the promptness with which he answered the appeal. Perhaps we should also congratulate the attorneys on either side upon the skill with which they managed to reconcile their clients without prejudice to their bills of costs. But from this, and from a host of other cases, which any man who reads a newspaper can call to mind, we conclude that an infinite waste of money, and temper, and good fellowship might be saved, if Lord Westbury would establish for us an order of professional referees, men of approved judgment and skill, to whom parties at difference might resort in the first instance—whether barristers or solicitors, matters little.

THE "ROYAL SOVEREIGN."

THIS week has witnessed the experimental firing of the turret-ship *Royal Sovereign*, from her 12-ton turret-guns, in St. Helen's Roads, at the east end of the Isle of Wight, with perfectly satisfactory results. On Tuesday a large number of rounds were fired with blank cartridge, to accustom the men to their work, and these were followed with charges of 20lb., 35lb., and 40lb., with shot, at different angles and elevations. On Wednesday fifty rounds were fired at different angles and elevations, with shot and 35lb. and 40lb., charges; winding up with a concentrated fire from the four turrets at the mark—a square foot of white bunting on a slight staff at 1,000 yards' distance. The smoke cleared, and flag and staff were gone.

There are always prophets of evil—men who see ruin in every innovation, and who, in the case of the *Royal Sovereign*, promised

in behalf of her guns, that, when fired, they would produce damaging effects upon the wooden planking of her upper deck, and that an immense amount of concussion would be felt in the turrets, on the deck on which they rest, and on the fittings of the officers' cabins. Some thought that a few discharges at any lengthened angle along the ship's deck, and with the guns depressed to strike an object at short range, would rip up the planking of the deck, while the smoke in the turrets would inevitably suffocate the gunners. Not one of these prophecies was fulfilled. Some panes of glass in Captain Sherard Osborne's cabin were broken, and the leather flaps of the turrets were scorched by the flame of the gun's discharge. Beyond this—easily to be guarded against in future—there was no damage whatever. Not even was the china and glass in the steward's pantries affected by the concussion upon firing. The guns worked easily, the turrets revolved with ease and nicety, and the men, though they were working the guns in the turrets seven hours each day, were neither suffocated nor inconvenienced. The success is thus perfect.

THE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.

To give a man a stick to be employed in breaking your own head is a proceeding generally condemned, yet it is exactly the type of what we have done—or the colonists have done for us—in New Zealand, where we have been selling the Maories not sticks, but guns and ammunition, for the last seven years, with a tolerable certainty that they would one day be employed in bringing down English soldiers. Up to 1857 the sale of ammunition and fire-arms to the Aborigines was prohibited; but their sale offered a tempting source of income, and in that year the Governor, pressed by the New Zealand Ministry, removed the prohibition, though the commander-in-chief, the bishop, and at least one friendly chief, protested against his doing so. In nine months the natives possessed themselves, under the new law, of 7,849 lbs. of powder, and of 752 single or double-barrelled guns, and at this rate, more or less, they continued to provide themselves with stores for a war for which there was good reason to believe they were preparing. But this anticipation told for nothing beside the fact that the colonists were realizing a handsome profit by the traffic. War lay in the future, the profits in the present; and if things came to the worst, there was the mother country and the British taxpayer to fall back upon. They did come to the worst, and many a gallant officer and soldier was laid low by British muskets. Perhaps it would have been impossible altogether to prevent the natives from obtaining weapons through smugglers; but to legalize their sale, to remove all let and hindrance to it, to permit active traders to promote it, was surely in the highest degree impolitic.

THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT WARWICK.

THE Institute could not have chosen a more suitable scene for their annual meeting this year than the county in which Shakespeare was born. It is full of historic interest, and has for the archæologist the special charm of having given birth to Sir Simon Archer, and "that great exemplar of all English archæologists," to quote Archdeacon Sandford, Sir W. Dugdale. Drayton and Somerville amongst dead poets, and Savage Landor amongst living ones, also hail from Warwick. It witnessed the commencement of the civil war in the seventeenth century, and can boast of royal visitors from Edward I. down to Queen Victoria. It furnishes that unique address to royalty with which the men of Coventry, hearing that Queen Elizabeth liked poetry, welcomed her to their town:—

"We men of Coventry
Are very glad to see
Your gracious Majesty;
Good Lord, how fair ye be!"

And the unique royal reply:—

"Her gracious Majesty
Is very glad to see
The men of Coventry;
Good lack, what fools ye be!"

Then it has Warwick Castle; old Warwick Gaol, with a dungeon underneath, more agreeable to archæologists than to those who were confined in it; Stoneleigh Abbey and Kenilworth Castle, innumerable Roman remains, and remains of two different tribes of Saxons, St. Mary's Church, the Beauchamp Chapel, Leicester Hospital, the gateways, the college, and other objects of archæological interest. The Institute opened its proceedings on Tuesday in the Court-house, when the Marquis of Camden resigned his post of president to Lord Leigh, who, as owner of Stoneleigh Abbey, subsequently discharged the duties of hospitality to 150 guests. Amongst the greater lights of the Association present at the opening of its proceedings were his lordship, the Marquis of Camden, the Bishop of Oxford, Mr. Greaves, M.P., Mr. Beresford Hope, Archdeacon Sandford, Dr. Hook, the Dean of Chichester; Dr. Whewell, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge; Mr. Bracebridge, Sir John Boileau, Dr. Guest, Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge; Sir R. Kirby, C.B., and Rev. H. Hill.

MONT BLANC.

Mr. MORSHEAD has made himself famous amongst Alpine climbers, and shown how, without a guide, and by the help of a

bright moonlight, the summit of Mont Blanc may be reached from Chamouni, and Chamouni from the summit, in a single day. On Tuesday, the 21st inst., he left Chamouni at 12.30 a.m., accompanied by a porter; reached the Grands Mulets at 5.30, and dismissing his companion, who had become hopelessly slow, followed the tracks of a party who were ascending in the ordinary manner from the Grands Mulets. At 10 a.m. he reached the summit, overtook, on the Grand Plateau, the party descending, and returned with them into Chamouni at 4.25 p.m. The whole excursion, including stoppages, occupied sixteen hours. This has never been done before. "I was favoured," he writes, "by a brilliant moon, which enabled me to get through the forest at starting without any loss of time; and afterwards on the snow by the tracks of the party in front; but I should say that, under favourable circumstances, a good mountaineer with one good guide might always count on making the ascent within eighteen hours by this route, and, as far as my experiences goes, with less fatigue than by starting the previous day and spending a restless night of dirt and discomfort in the Grands Mulets hut. My friend Mr. Moore a few weeks ago proved the ascent practicable from the Pavillon Bellevue in one day with one guide, and it was his success that first suggested to me the idea of trying it from Chamouni. My expenses were 20*l.* for the porter and 27*l.* for provisions. The latter charge was exorbitant, but I had to take a larger quantity than necessary, in case of being obliged to sleep out, and all at Chamouni prices.

THE 600-POUNDER ARMSTRONG GUN.—Sir William Armstrong writes to the *Times* to say that the little fissures, varying from the 100th to the 50th of an inch, which have made their appearance in the powder-chamber of his gun at the junction of the coils, have not led to serious results in other guns in which they have shown themselves, although those guns had been severely tested. He asks that judgment be withheld till the gun has passed through its trial; and while admitting that steel lining is exempt from flaws of this kind, urges that the superiority of steel lining for very large guns cannot yet be considered as fully established.

SOME persons, while walking through the park of St. Cloud some days since, discovered a young man hanging by the neck from a tree. Some of them ran off in search of the gendarmes while the others cut him down, and, after a while, restored him to life. When the gendarmes arrived, they took him to their barracks, where he soon perfectly recovered. When interrogated, he replied that about three months before he was forced into a marriage, and that having been ever since most unhappy, he had determined to take away his life rather than live with his wife. He was afterwards put to bed, and told to compose himself; but when the gendarmes returned in the morning, they found that he had again hanged himself by his braces to an upper bar of the window, and was quite dead. The body was conveyed to the Morgue. The deceased was supposed from his language to be a German.

THE outcry for greater protection for railway travellers has, we observe, led the South-Western directors to order a glazed circular aperture to be placed in each of their carriages. These apertures, says the *Railway News*, "will be provided with curtains, so as to ensure privacy to the passengers, but will, at the same time, in the event of an assault by one individual upon another in any one of the carriages, afford to the occupant of an adjoining compartment the means of identifying the offenders."

THE deaths in London, which were 1,300 in the second week of July, rose last week to 1,399. This mortality exceeds the estimated number by 133. The increase arises in great measure from summer diarrhoea, the fatal cases of which rose to 145. The whole of them, with the exception of 14, occurred to children under two years of age. There were 6 deaths referred to cholera. The births last week were 1,870. The mean temperature was 66.5 deg., which is 4.9 above the average. The mean degree of humidity of the air was only 65. There was no rain.

AT one of many breakfasts we had the honour and good fortune to enjoy at No. 22, St. James's-place, we found the poet Rogers in his drawing-room in a more than usually pleasant vein. Taking our hand, holding it, and leading us to the window (half smiling, half laughing all the time) he exclaimed, "I have an anecdote for you, and in your way:—Coming from the City yesterday, I took Fetter-lane, Fleet-street, in my road, that I might see—reverentially—the newly-discovered house in which Dryden is said to have lived. I asked for the house, and could for a long time obtain no better reply to my repeated question, 'Which is Dryden's house?' than 'Dryden—Dryden' (the policeman I spoke to thinking for a time with his finger, Sterne-like, to his ear)—'Dryden—is he backward with his rent?' That policeman knew to the life the poetical character. I went laughing home, and, as you see, am laughing still."—*Builder*.

A MADRID paper gives an account of a recent fight between an elephant and a bull—a brutal and shocking spectacle. It says:—"When the elephant was brought to the Place des Taureaux a fiery young bull was turned out. The bull advanced against his terrible adversary without evincing the slightest fear. He attempted to flank him, in order to wound him; but the elephant, exhibiting an equal agility in his motion, did not suffer him to approach. Finally the bull attacked him in front; but, everywhere confronted by the formidable tusks which interposed an impregnable barrier, he did not succeed in wounding him. At last, in one of the assaults, the bull succeeded in thrusting his head beneath the tusks; but, before he could penetrate the tough hide of the elephant, he fell to the earth. The spectators only saw the elephant bend his head slightly, and rest the extremities of his tusks, which had been plugged, upon the back of the bull. From that moment the bull was *hors de combat*, and when they afterwards

killed him, it was found that three ribs were completely crushed by the almost imperceptible movement the elephant had made in holding him with his tusks."

THE precinct of the Savoy, notwithstanding the decline and fall of the hospital (its chief structure), contained many commodious houses and held a busy population. The king's presses were maintained here, and here all proclamations, Acts of Parliament, and gazettes were issued. Here, too, the books of the Royal Society and other contributions to popular and scientific literature were produced, as we learn from the title-page of the "*Angliæ Notitia*," now lying before us, which informs us that the work was printed in the Savoy, by T. N., for John Martyn, printer to the Royal Society, at the Bell, in St. Paul's churchyard, in the year 1671. Besides the Royal chapel of the Savoy, which was assigned to the parish of St. Mary-le-Strand on the destruction of the old church by the Protector Somerset, there were churches, or congregations, established for the Dutch, High Germans, French, and Lutherans, and also Protestant Dissenters. But the chapel of the Savoy alone possessed the privilege of sanctuary, and this circumstance drew into the place the worst characters, and often led to serious consequences. Whenever an attempt was made to follow a debtor or other offender into the precinct, the mob assembled and executed summary vengeance, in accordance with the wild customs of the locality. In 1696 a creditor went into the Savoy to demand a debt of one who had taken sanctuary. The population immediately poured out from every nook and corner, seized the unfortunate creditor, tarred and feathered him, and in that condition conveyed him in a wheelbarrow into the Strand, and bound him to the maypole, where they left him.—*Once a Week*.

WE (*Morning Post*) are requested to state that Lady Florence Paget did not, as stated by a contemporary, take her departure, on the morning of her marriage with Lord Hastings, from St. George's Hotel in her father's brougham; but that she went from her father's house in Portland-place, where she was living, in a carriage hired to take her out shopping, and that she was met by Mrs. Granville (and not by Lord Hastings' sister), who took her to St. George's Church.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WHY ENGLAND HAS BIG GUNS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "LONDON REVIEW."

SIR,—The writer of an interesting and temperate article in your last number, entitled, "Why England has no Big Guns," in his generous desire to render justice to the skill and patience of Mr. Lancaster has used language capable of misconstruction.

The "Lancaster" gun that has recently been fired with so much success is, in reality, an Armstrong coil-gun rifled on Mr. Lancaster's system. How to construct large guns is one question—how to rifle them when constructed is another. Even if England, then, had no large guns, the reason could scarcely be the one suggested by the writer, that the Government had not chosen the best form of rifling. That, if Mr. Lancaster's health is preserved, he may himself throw light in the future on the question of construction of heavy guns, I am far from wishing to deny; but the one heavy Lancaster gun to the success of which your writer alludes, is, in fact, an Armstrong gun as far as its construction goes.

Nor is it correct to say that England has no heavy guns. The Armstrong 300-pounders—still more the 600-pounders—with steel shot and shell, have penetrated and destroyed every naval target in existence, and have done so during the whole course of the last year and a quarter, as may be seen by the official reports of the Iron Plate Committee. Of the 300-pounders Lord Hartington said last May that they were the only effective guns against armour-clad ships. Of the 600-pounder he thus spoke last Tuesday:—

"The experiments which had taken place a few days ago at Shoeburyness showed that the expectations of the Committee with respect to the ordnance which might be placed in our forts had been fulfilled to the letter. The experiments made on that occasion showed that at three thousand yards a projectile fired from that gun would break the plates of any iron-clad vessel. The hon. gentleman said that we had not a gun to put in these forts; but the House would perceive that the experiments showed that, when mounted on the forts, these guns would do all that they had originally been intended to do."—*Lord Hartington: Times' Report*, July 26, 1864.

In all probability, these Armstrong 300-pounders and 600-pounders would produce effective results, whatever the form of their rifling. It is, however, all important that the best rifling should be selected for them; and though the Lancaster oval rifling has not yet in heavy guns been pitted against the Armstrong shunt rifling, it is to be hoped we shall see some such experiments in the course of a few weeks. Until we can learn that for heavy guns there is any system of construction to compare with that of the welded coil, the Government ought to keep questions of rifling and questions of construction distinct; and assuming, for the present, the Armstrong system of construction for the basis, to apply it in turn to the various methods of rifling proposed by scientific men. Otherwise we shall have questions of construction, of rifling, of small and large bores, of shot and of shell all mixed up together in the same hopeless jumble as that in

which the Armstrong and Whitworth experiments at Shoeburyness seem likely to be involved.

Meanwhile that England has heavy guns, and heavy guns on which she can try Mr. Lancaster's oval system at all, is due to the welded coil of Sir William Armstrong. I am sure that both Mr. Lancaster and Sir William Armstrong are men of too much genius and modesty to wish to underrate one another; and in writing these lines I am only anxious to put clearly the present drift of a most important controversy.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

Thursday, July 28.

A CONSTANT READER.

IN MEMORIAM—W. J. FOX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "LONDON REVIEW."

SIR,—In reference to the circular I had the pleasure of sending you on this subject, I find that some little misapprehension appears to have arisen, which I have been requested to correct. It seems not to have been expressed with sufficient distinctness that the main object of the fund is to publish an edition of Mr. Fox's works, it having been unanimously resolved that these would form his most fitting monument. The tablet over his grave, and the marble bust to be placed in the National Portrait Gallery, were considered as quite secondary objects, and only a small sum was to be appropriated to those purposes. I think it important to state this with the most absolute plainness, as there are probably so many who would do their utmost to enable the committee to carry out their aim of producing a first-rate edition of Mr. Fox's best works who would be comparatively careless of either form of monument.

Allow me to intimate that we shall need all the help that the heartiest co-operation of all who value Mr. Fox's life-long labours can give.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

21, Essex-street, Strand, July 19.

THOS. GILKS, Hon. Sec.

THE CHURCH.

THE "OXFORD-STREET" DECLARATION.

WE briefly directed attention last week to a new declaration which has been recommended for signature to the scientific world by a Mr. Herbert M'Leod, of the Royal College of Chemistry in Oxford-street. Its professed object is, as may be seen by a reference to it, in another place in our columns, to obtain from "students of the natural sciences" a joint and, if possible, unanimous expression of opinion on one of the most difficult theological questions of the day—the relation between Science and Scripture. It is not easy to say what classes of individuals are included under the term "students of the natural sciences." The expression is a very unassuming one, and, therefore, in one sense, most appropriate to be used in a document which, notwithstanding the array of six great names which are appended, is likely to be signed by few except inexperienced young gentlemen who are "students" indeed, learning their first lessons in chemistry, botany, and the kindred sciences. It is true that the greatest men who have ever achieved scientific discoveries in their day, imbued with that spirit of genuine humility by which a Newton could see in himself no more than a child playing on the shore of a vast sea, are proud to bear no higher title than that of "students of science." But, as Dr. Daubeny quietly but most truly hints, there are "veteran" students of science as well as raw recruits; and on these "veterans," we know, the world bestows a higher title—the name of *savans*, which more accurately describes their true character. Of the entrapping of such *savans* into a hasty signature of this ridiculous document, there will, we suspect, after the publication of Dr. Daubeny's letter, be very little seen. The Declaration is, in fact, already dead; it has had but an ephemeral existence. One week was sufficient to see the beginning and the end. The veteran student of Botany from Oxford has annihilated it by a single blow; and the waste-paper on which it was printed may be sent to the chemical laboratory in Pentonville to heat the crucibles of the Oxford-street "students of science." We really pity Mr. M'Leod; he is truly more an object of compassion than of indignation. He has been made a buffer to bear the blows which should descend on the heads of some more mighty sons of science hiding in the dark—a scapegoat to carry their sins. It is scarcely possible that he could have issued such a pretentious document on his own authority.

But although this Declaration has experienced a pitiful collapse, and is in itself really unworthy of notice, a passing consideration may be given to it on account of the question raised, and the manly and candid letter of Dr. Daubeny. Are scientific men called on more than any other class in society to express an opinion on a theological question of this kind? Is it likely, too, that the men of note among them would commit themselves to any definite opinion on a matter of such confessed difficulty? As to the first of these questions, in one case only can the answer be in the affirmative. If they have been more active than other persons in attacking the statements of Scripture by the instrumentality of science, and have thereby brought down on themselves public condemnation, then, and only then, could such a declaration be justified. It would be but a measure of necessary self-defence. But do the facts of the case support this supposition? The

very reverse. The men whose assaults on the inspiration of the Bible in "Essays and Reviews" called forth the Oxford Declaration were not men of science, but clergymen, men bound by their ordination obligations to teach that the Bible was the "word of God written." As Dr. Daubeny well remarks, the most systematic attack made of late years on the Old Testament has proceeded from an Anglican bishop who, so far from being addicted to a study of nature, betrayed his ignorance of it by confessing that his first doubts as to a Deluge were suggested to him by an African convert. Men of science as a class, with but few exceptions, abstain from interference in theological controversies. They are too much interested and too much occupied in their own pursuits to do so. Of course, their discoveries often furnish to the adversaries of Christianity facts which they turn into "oppositions of science falsely so called" in order to damage religion; but science is not responsible for the evil use of these facts, nor are the true students of science called on to defend themselves on account of it. They must study the facts of nature which bear on such questions as the antiquity of the human race and the Deluge; but they do so simply in the pursuit of their own calling, and without venturing to pronounce dogmatically on questions outside their province. If no just ground, then, can be found for accusing scientific men as a class of attacking Scripture, there can be no reason why any expression of opinion should emanate from them rather than from any other portion of the community.

But is it in the slightest degree likely that the *savans* of science would commit themselves to a definite opinion on a theological question of confessed difficulty? Of all men in the world they are the most cautious in arriving at a conclusion, and of all men the most free to form their opinions. Nothing could be more unlikely than that they would barter this liberty on a matter of extremely doubtful evidence, for no other purpose than to put themselves in an attitude of hostility to the clergy of the Church, of which they are most of them members. They are free as the air; they are not tied to any set of opinions or doctrines; they can change even their own on the evidence of a single fact enforcing a change. It is scarcely possible that they should meddle much in a matter so difficult as theology. Medical men, surgeons and physicians, are "students of science"—many of them veterans. Are they to sign the Oxford-street Declaration and knock their heads against the prejudices of their patients, to the damage of themselves and their profession? The matter is a sheer absurdity; the scientific world has done well, and will do well, to keep itself clear of any such ludicrous exhibition.

How different is the case of the clergy of the Established Church, from whom the true Oxford Declaration emanated! Their position, their calling, their obligations, the interests of the Church of which they are the ministers, forced them to action in a moment of peril, when two of the most vital truths of their religion were attacked. The highest ecclesiastical tribunal of the country, by a slight majority in votes, pronounced judgment against these doctrines which the Church has preserved from the earliest ages as her most sacred treasure. Could the hierarchy and clergy of the Church of England have been silent? Unlike the sons of science, they were not free, but bound—bound, not to teach propositions which may alter with the progress of human discovery, but absolute truths, declared by Revelation, which cannot change. The Oxford Declaration was a duty, and the natural result of the circumstances which called it into existence; the Oxford-street declaration is a blunder, and a piece of unwarrantable and presumptuous intermeddling, which has met the fate it justly deserved—laughed at by the world, and eschewed by true "students of the natural sciences."

Not only is this document a piece of presumption and a failure, but it is also a nullity. To borrow language from the Lord Chancellor, it is an unctuous production, a series of well-lubricated terms, which slip through the fingers, and may mean anything or nothing. Anyone could sign it. Archdeacon Denison and Dr. Cumming could sign it; Dr. Colenso could sign it; and no wonder, therefore, that Sir David Brewster and Sir Henry Rawlinson thoughtlessly have signed it. It is a string of platitudes, an exemplification of that particular use of words which has caused language to be defined "the art of concealing ideas." It is reconcileable with that view of inspiration which considers every word and letter of the Bible the utterance of God; and it may express the views of those who believe that the Bible only *contains* the Word of God. It can turn and twist itself in any direction, and fit itself to any shape. "It is impossible," it declares, "for the Word of God as written in the book of Nature, and God's Word written in Holy Scripture, to contradict one another." Everyone believes this; everyone can say this. It will accommodate itself to any set of doctrinaires, as may be seen by the ingenious twist given to the expression, "Word of God," in the two forms in which it is presented. "We deplore that natural science should be looked on with suspicion by many who do not make a study of it, merely on account of the unadvised manner in which some are placing it in opposition to Holy Writ." What does all this mean? Who are the persons that are placing science in opposition to Holy Writ? Is it the clergy who are creating this opposition; or what class of laymen is doing so? It is hard to tell; the sentence may mean anything. Lastly, say Mr. M'Leod and his brother declarationists:—"Rather leave the two [Science and Scripture] side by side till it shall please God to allow us to see the manner in which they may be reconciled;" and thus we can, in the meantime "rest in faith upon the points in which they agree." Another couple of "oily and saponaceous sentences;"

which may mean anything, but in the latter of which the true cloven foot peeps out, pointing the way of the declarationist to the Judgment of the Judicial Committee, if his predilections lie in that direction.

With such shuffling and such concealed meanings, how could this document have success? It is no wonder that real men of science repudiate it. It did not require the genius of Daubeny to see through its transparent hollowness. It did not express Dr. Daubeny's particular views; therefore he eschewed it. It expressed distinctly no one's views; therefore he held it up to scorn. A Declaration to have weight must be clear, distinct, and to the point, and contain some definite statement. It must strike the nail on the head, or its originators will be convicted of folly. The Oxford Declaration did this, and has been crowned with success; the Oxford-street Declaration has not done it, and is a contemptible failure.

INDEPENDENT PERSECUTION.

Who ever heard of Independent persecution? How can the thing be? We thought persecution made its miserable martyr the most helpless and dependent of creatures. We shall answer the question. Independent persecution is an article of manufacture which is at present, so far as we can learn, indigenous to a small village in Yorkshire of the name of Harden, where it is produced, under the fostering care of the Messrs. Watmuff & Co., mohair spinners and manufacturers, of that locality, and used for the discipline and training of operative children. The receipt for its production is as follows:—Being given any aggregate of sound fanatical Independents, independent in an uncompromising zeal for their sect, independent in an utter contempt for public opinion in the nineteenth century, independent in a long purse which they can swing about temptingly over the heads of poor factory operatives, the material is obtained out of which may be manufactured any amount of this curious article. Next, define civil and religious liberty to be "the right of thinking yourself as you please, but making others think as you do." Force the gentle goddess, thus metamorphosed, to sit in an un-Januslike attitude, with her face away from the Established Church and towards the Dissenting quarter of the compass. Take her, then, down to Harden, and into the manufactory of the Messrs. Watmuff & Co., there to preside over the operatives; and under her influence you will witness the most beneficent results suddenly produced. Messrs. Watmuff & Co. are good and true men, who hate Episcopacy and love Independency. With the kindest feelings, therefore, they have arranged that this goddess, who now presides over their establishment, should make their little children operatives happy by giving them employment, but on the condition—and this is the perfection of freedom in Harden—that they shall leave off attending the Church school and Church services. Happy—happy, children! But some one whispers that this is exactly what Romish priests do in Ireland to little children for attending Protestant schools. Anathema and horsewhip—bell, book, and candle-light. Can it be that it is this Irish goddess of Liberty the Messrs. Watmuff & Co. have imported into their establishment? Can they have been taking a leaf out of the statute-book of Rome, when they ordered seventy children of their operatives to leave off attendance at the Church services and Church school at the peril of losing their employment? Surely, it cannot be. There must be some mistake. Such a blot cannot have fallen on the character of the manufacturers of free and happy England.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK.

It will be remembered that about twelve months ago the praise of a certain "Layman" who had triumphantly answered Bishop Colenso were in everyone's mouth. He had written, it was said, one of the best books, or the very best book, on the subject. We ourselves joined in the general laudation. Everyone wished that the "Layman" would go on with his good work and answer the second and third and fourth parts of Dr. Colenso's work. He has gone on; he has published a second volume; and it has been dedicated to the Archbishop of York. Who could refuse to have a work from such a pen dedicated to him? The Archbishop thought he could not refuse the honour, and consequently the book was so dedicated. But now comes the sad part of the story. As the Zulu converted Dr. Colenso, so now has Dr. Colenso converted the "Layman," in part, at least; and the Archbishop is obliged to confess that there are passages in this "Layman's" second volume in which he "cannot concur." But can he be blamed? Certainly not for consenting to the dedication. But here a second difficulty presents itself. The Rev. Mr. Brierly has written a letter to the Archbishop calling on his Grace to publicly withdraw his name from the book, now that its true character is known; and with this demand the Archbishop refuses to comply, on the ground that he "has not had time to study it and form a fair opinion of its whole contents." Will this excuse be considered satisfactory in the public opinion of the Church? We very much doubt if it will, in the circumstances of the case. If the Archbishop has not read it, who else can be expected to have done so? The charge against the "Layman" is that he has made admissions as dangerous as those which have been charged against Dr. Colenso, such as that the Pentateuch is the work of several authors, and that large portions of it were written after the death of Moses, some of them even so late as the days of Saul. Mr. Brierly has directed attention to these matters; but the Archbishop of York has not had time to read a

book dedicated to himself, and written in defence, or, for all he knows, in hostility, to the faith entrusted to his charge as head of the Metropolitan Province of York. The excuse is not convincing. Let us hope that his Grace will read the "Layman's" book without delay, and then act promptly, as sound wisdom should dictate.

ST. AIDAN'S COLLEGE.

A SERIOUS charge hangs over this institution. The Principal, Dr. Baylee, is accused by the *Record* of "touting for candidates for holy orders" among the Wesleyans. It is stated that the Earl of Shaftesbury has, in consequence, withdrawn his name from the list of vice-presidents. The foundation of the charge is a circular lately issued, it was supposed with the sanction of Dr. Baylee, intimating that any Wesleyan wishing to become a clergyman of the Church of England could be admitted to St. Aidan's College "without the preparatory examination, and on advantageous terms." Dr. Baylee has just written a letter to the *Record*, denying that the notice referred to was issued with his sanction. He states that it was drawn up by a young Wesleyan minister, now a student in the College, and that he "neither requested him to circulate it, nor did himself send a single copy." He declares, also, that he never offered to Wesleyans any "advantageous terms" in any pecuniary sense, but always told them that the charges of the College could not be reduced. There is evidently a mystery over the whole affair; and, as Dr. Baylee has commenced to explain himself, we shall at present suspend our judgment. One question only we ask—of what kind can be the discipline of an institution in which a student could venture to circulate without authority a notice so deeply implicating its character?

THE BISHOP OF OXFORD AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.—Mr. W. S. Blackstone, of Dorchester, late M.P. for Wallingford, in a published correspondence, is calling the Bishop of Oxford to account on the inconsistency of his encouraging choral celebrations of the Lord's Supper, in which choristers, who are only young children, are obliged to join in a service which is intended only for communicants. These children join in the responses, confessions, and songs of praise, which can have no reference to themselves personally in the service. The only reply which the Bishop has given to this remonstrance is, that he is not aware of "any law, canon, or constitution of the Church of England" which forbids the employment of these choristers. A good old-fashioned reason, no doubt.

THE BIBLEWOMEN'S HOLIDAY.—A party of 200 of these deserving and hard-working women, from London, were entertained on Wednesday, the 13th, on the grounds of Mr. J. Gurney Barclay, at Leyton. Clear of the hard streets and smoke of the City, they set to enjoy themselves heartily in walking through the grounds, examining the flower-beds, and visiting the conservatories. At five o'clock they were again entertained with tea and fruit and a few speeches, and they then returned to their homes late in the evening, after having enjoyed a really happy day. Lord Radstock, and the Revs. Messrs. Wilson and Pennefather, with Mr. Barclay, all deserve great credit for the trouble they have taken to give these earnest women a day of relaxation from their never-ceasing toil.

THE ENGLISH CHURCH UNION IN DISUNION.—A letter has appeared in the *Daily News*, signed "G. E. Biber," in which that gentleman complains of the encouragement by this Union of mediaeval practices, and of an intolerant spirit fostered by a dominant section. Mr. Biber says, he joined the Union on the faith of its being a body professedly established for "the maintenance and defence of the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England;" but finds it to be dominated by parties who, on the one hand, propagate notions of the pre-Reformation period, and, on the other, paralyse the action of the Union in opposition to Rationalism. These are serious charges, which are not diminished in gravity by the fact that the *Church Review*, which is the organ of the Union, has refused to give Mr. Biber a hearing. We trust that some satisfactory explanation may be given of a course which is apparently so unwarrantable.

THE ADDRESS TO THE ARCHBISHOPS.—The following address, written by the Rev. J. Keble, author of "The Christian Year," is recommended for circulation in parishes where the lay memorials to the archbishops are in course of signature:—"We all believe the Holy Bible to be God's own word: as it is written, 'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.' And our Lord has expressly told us, that in the last day those on the left hand will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal. Suppose that the priest set over you, to look after your souls and the souls of your children, should teach people to doubt or disbelieve either of these great and necessary doctrines, what would you think of it? Now, it appears that, owing to some oversight in the law of the land, this might happen any day. It has happened in certain parishes, and the bishops have sought, hitherto in vain, to correct it. Under these circumstances, the Archbishops of Canterbury and of York have written and published pastoral letters, affirming anew the old and true faith, and charging us all to persevere in it. And we trust that by an united effort, under their guidance, this great evil and wrong may, with God's blessing, be averted, and the doctrine of the Church kept whole and undefiled among us. It is thought that the hands of our bishops would be strengthened for this good work by Churchmen publicly thanking them for what they have done, and promising to pray for them at this time of trouble and rebuke. This you will be invited to do by setting your hands to a paper which will be laid before you. You will do so, we trust, thoughtfully, as to the Lord, and not unto men. And may God in all be glorified, through Jesus Christ!"

THREATENED ARREST OF ITALIAN CLERGY.—The question whether the Roman Catholic clergy in Italy are to obey the Pope or the King of Italy is in the way of being soon decided. The Archbishop of Camerino and the Marches and a priest named Roscioni, have been summoned before the criminal tribunals for attempting opposition to the King's Government in refusing, in obedience to a rescript from Rome, confession to those who have submitted to the King's authority. In case of non-compliance with the summons, which is certain in the case of the Archbishop, the parties are to be immediately arrested.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—One of the series of pictorial embellishments of the interior of this Cathedral, now in course of execution, was uncovered to public view on Friday. The picture is placed in one of the great spandrels of the dome, under the whispering gallery. The design is the prophet Isaiah in vision with two angels, and is executed in mosaic on a gold ground, and the cost will be £700. This picture is but a small part of a large scheme of embellishment of the interior, which, it is calculated, may be finally carried out, if £10,000 for five years can be made available.

QUADRUPLE WEDDING.—A wedding of a singular character was celebrated last week at Calverly Church, in Yorkshire. Four bridegrooms led to the altar four blushing brides, sisters of the name of Preston, residing at Shipley. Each bridegroom was born in the same month of the year as his bride, and each bride was older than her bridegroom. The mothers of the bridegrooms were all widows; and the brides were orphans, and were given away by an only brother. Under such a fortuitous concurrence of singular circumstances it is expected that bridegrooms and brides will make happy husbands and wives.

SURREPTITIOUS MARRIAGE IN ENNISKILLEN.—The Rev. John M'Loughlin, the Roman Catholic priest, who, it will be remembered, contrived to bring about the marriage between Dan Peterson and Susanna Quinton, in Enniskillen, by introducing an unknown priest to perform the ceremony, and who, it is strongly suspected, was no other priest than the reverend gentleman himself, was tried at the late assizes in Monaghan, and acquitted on all the counts. As a matter of course, the verdict has been applauded by the Roman Catholics, and equally condemned by the Protestants. The fact is, that it is next to impossible to bring an Irish priest within the meshes of the law.

MR. JUSTICE SHEE.—This learned Judge has lately shown that he is above common place religious prejudice. It will be remembered that on his first entering on his duties of Judge at the Spring Assizes in Durham, he attended divine service at the Roman Catholic chapel at Old Elvet in that city. It is stated that last week, in the course of his present Summer Circuit, Mr. Shee has gone a step farther, and in state attended divine service in Worcester Cathedral.

ANOTHER ROMISH MIRACLE.—A new miracle has been performed at St. Omer's, in France, on the occasion of some *fêtes* being celebrated in honour of Notre Dame de Miracles. A woman afflicted with sciatic neuralgia was enabled, by the aid of the wonder-working Dame, to throw aside her crutches and walk in the street, leaning lightly on the arm of a friend. The clergy have taken possession of the crutches in order to hang them up in the Church of Notre Dame, quite confident that the old woman will never again require them.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY IN NAPLES.—The municipality of Naples have sold a piece of land to the Jews, which they intend to convert into a cemetery. Under the old *régime*, they were not allowed to have a private burying-ground.

ARRIVAL OF DR. LIVINGSTONE.—This distinguished traveller arrived in London on Saturday evening by the express train from Paris. He was in excellent health and spirits, and was received with marked attention and respect by the officials of the railway and of the Custom House. He was at the Weigh-house Chapel on Sunday morning (Rev. T. Binney's), when thanks were offered for his safety.

BISHOP ANDERSON.—It is said that Simeon's trustees are waiting the arrival in England of Dr. Anderson, the Bishop of Rupert's Land, who is about to resign his diocese, to offer to him the vicarage of Clifton, near Bristol, which has become vacant by the death of the Rev. J. Hensman. The benefice is worth about £800 a year.

FINE ARTS.

MUSIC.

THE revival of Meyerbeer's "*L'Etoile du Nord*," at the Royal Italian Opera, on Saturday last, forms a worthy climax to a brilliant and prosperous season. In splendour of spectacle and efficient musical performance, it is worthy of comparison with any previous effort, even of this establishment. Originally produced at Paris in 1854, "*L'Etoile du Nord*" was Meyerbeer's first essay in the style of the *Opéra Comique*. His previous successes in romantic opera, as exemplified in his "*Robert le Diable*," "*Les Huguenots*," and "*Le Prophète*," had so identified him with grandeur of proportion and elaborate complication of effect, that it was matter of surprise to find him applying his genius to a style in which lightness and delicacy of touch, and genial vivacity, are the chief requisites. The book of "*L'Etoile*," however, although by Scribe, the dramatist of so many of Auber's brightest and most brilliant operas, contains enough of the romantic and heroic element to afford scope for that elaboration and complex structure in which Meyerbeer's powers were best displayed. Although classed as an *opéra comique*, the interest is in fact chiefly of a serious and romantic character. Those episodes in the life of Peter the Great which include his labours as a shipwright, his meeting with Catherine his future empress, the conspiracy in his camp, with the dramatist's inventions of Catherine's

agency in the defeat of the plot in her disguise as a recruit, her danger of being shot for insubordination, her escape, insanity, and subsequent recovery and espousal by the Czar,—all these incidents partake more of the romantic and heroic, than of that light and transparent vein of genial comedy which properly characterizes the *opéra comique*; and so far the subject is all the better adapted to Meyerbeer's genius, which excelled rather in minute laborious accumulation, than in those brilliant spontaneous flashes which distinguish musical comedy, properly so called, as in the best works of Rossini and Auber. The very few situations in "*L'Etoile*" into which any of the comic element enters, are those in which Meyerbeer has been least happy in his musical illustration. His humour is generally forced; and charming though the music may be, it is seldom, in such instances, thoroughly true to the spirit of the scene. On the other hand, when some exciting situation occurs in which conflicting passions or emotions have to be expressed and various groups of characters to be brought into musical action,—as, for instance, in the finale to the second act of this opera,—then Meyerbeer displays a dramatic power and a capacity for dealing with complex materials, such as few composers have possessed. "*L'Etoile du Nord*" comprises several pieces taken by the composer from a fugitive work, the "*Camp of Silesia*," produced at Berlin in 1844. Among these is the overture, which contains a charming melody, afterwards forming the subject of the prayer sung by Catherine at the end of the first act, when, disguised as a recruit, she sets out to join the army. The air sung by Danilowitz, the pastrycook (afterwards, as Menzikoff, the Czar's minister) is light and graceful, and more in the true *opéra comique* style than any other movement in the work. The drinking chorus, "*Alla Finlanda*," has a certain rugged northern jollity, which is very characteristic. The couplets sung by Catherine, "*Il cappel*," are charmingly quaint, and so is Prascovia's air, "*Son di gel*," expressive of terror at the approach of the band of hostile Calmucks. The Gipsy rondo, with tambourine, by which Catherine appeases the predatory band, one of the most prominent "tunes" in the opera, is an importation from the "*Camp of Silesia*." The duet between Catherine and Peter, "*Di qual città*," contains some charming phrases of melody, but has a somewhat disjointed effect, owing to the frequent breaking of the rhythm; and the same may be said of the duet between Catherine and Prascovia. The remaining speciality of the first act is the exquisite prayer sung by Catherine at the end of the finale, introduced, as already said, in the overture. This charming cantabile phrase is one of those strains that, even after a single hearing, cling tenaciously to the memory. The second act takes all the importance, in length and elaborate treatment, of grand opera; and here Meyerbeer's strength is largely put forth. The music of Gritzenko, a comic corporal, fails to realize any individuality of character; but in the general effect of military pomp and grandeur, the whole of this act is superb and masterly. Most original are the couplets sung by the two Vivandières while carousing in Peter's tent, descriptive of a military duel. In novelty of form and quaintness of character this movement is unique. The quintet and sextet which follow are full of dramatic colour, while the finale is one of those pieces of complex combination in which Meyerbeer's genius delighted. The two military bands on the stage, in addition to the ordinary orchestra in front, each performing separate and independent parts, yet all uniting in one concerted effect—form a magnificent climax at the strongest dramatic point of the work. The introduction of the ancient German tune known as the Dessau March, which is performed by one band, while the other two orchestras are differently but harmoniously employed, has a most happy effect. The third act falls off both in dramatic and in musical interest. The Romance sung by Peter, "*O lieti di*" is an expressive and flowing melody of purely vocal character, with a charming elaboration of the accompaniment at the second verse—its delivery by M. Faure was a masterly display of refined vocalization. In the scene of Catherine's madness is some very expressive music, leading to her song with two flutes obbligati, another importation from the "*Camp of Silesia*," and one of those displays of bravura singing which have little merit beyond the exhibition of a prima-donna's powers of execution. With a reminiscence of the beautiful prayer of the first act, and the "*fanfare*" which forms the coda of the overture, the opera concludes. The conversion of "*L'Etoile*" from its original form of dialogue into a recitative opera, in accordance with the rule which seems to prohibit speaking in an Italian musical work, has an unfavourable effect in adding to the length and weight of the opera, skilfully as this alteration has been effected (by Meyerbeer himself). The dramatic interest is not sufficient to justify the prolongation thus incurred, and the result is an inevitable impression of weariness at the close of a work which, nevertheless, contains much music that may compare with any other of its composer's productions. "*L'Etoile du Nord*," as now given at the Royal Italian Opera, has some advantages, both scenic and musical, which it has never before received, not even in its magnificent production by the same establishment in 1855, just before the burning of the old theatre. Although Madame Miolan-Carvalho, the present Catherine, can scarcely efface the remembrance of its former representative, Madame Bosio, she sings the music in the true French style, if she does not quite rise to the dignity of the aspiring woman who won her way to an imperial crown. Then the substitution of Signor Ciampi for Lablache as Gritzenko, the corporal, is by no means a gain—Signor Ciampi's humour is hard and forced, but he sings his music admirably, and that is a set-off against any dramatic short-

comings. A most important gain, however, is M. Faure's Peter instead of M. Formes. The admirable acting and equally admirable singing of the French artist are material aids to the general effect. The part of Prascovia was charmingly represented by Mdle. Brunetti, who made a most successful first appearance here on this occasion. Her voice is of a light, genial, and sympathetic quality; her style unpretending and graceful, and her acting lively and intelligent. M. Naudin as Danilowitz, and Signor Neri-Baraldi as George, were both efficient; while the two Vivandières were, as in 1855, enacted by Madame Rudersdorff and Mdle. Jenny Bauer; and the small part of Colonel Yermoloff was allotted to Signor Tagliafico. The scene of the second act—a rocky gorge in a pine forest, with the Russian encampment, the grouping of the troops, with the prancing to and fro of the Cossack cavalry—is a masterpiece of theatrical effect, in which Mr. Beverley's pencil and Mr. A. Harris's skill in marshalling numbers are happily combined. The performance altogether was fully up to that high standard which the Royal Italian Opera first introduced here and has alone maintained.—Mr. Harris's benefit took place on Wednesday, when Madame Grisi reappeared in one act of "Norma;" and to-night "L'Etoile" is to be repeated for the fourth time, being the closing performance of the season.

In casting a retrospective glance at the Royal Italian Opera season of 1864, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that it has been one of varied and substantial interest, and fully worthy of the high character of the establishment. Some departures from the original prospective programme are always inevitable, owing to exigencies which cannot be foreseen by the most prescient of managers; but when the general result is to represent high and refined art, both in composition and execution, in so great degree as Mr. Gye's management has done, it would be captious to complain of one or two small promises unfulfilled, especially when all such promises are necessarily made conditionally on possibilities. The theatre opened on March 29, with "Norma," introducing Mdle. Lagrue as the Priestess and Signor Atti as Oroveso. The lady, both by this and her subsequent appearances as Desdemona in "Otello" and Leonora in "La Favorita," established her position as one of the few efficient tragic singers of the day. Mdle. Lucca also laid the foundation of a successful career here by her few appearances in the "Huguenots" and "Faust,"—a career, however, cut short by her sudden and capricious departure. The chief failure of the season was the German contralto, whose Azucena and Fides, however acceptable at Berlin or Vienna, were beneath the standard of the Royal Italian Opera. Signor Wachtel, whose remarkable high chest notes created so great a sensation on his appearance early in the season as Manrico in "Il Trovatore," scarcely fulfilled the expectations thus raised. In his subsequent performances as Arnaldo in "Tell" and John of Leyden in the "Prophète"—his style possessed that German hardness which all its national earnestness failed to render acceptable to ears accustomed to the suavity of Italian vocalization. As Stradella in Flotow's opera of that name, produced here specially for Signor Wachtel's final appearance, he left a somewhat more favourable impression with his audience. If he would subdue his style and be more sparing in the forced use of his exceptionally high notes, he should be a great dramatic singer of the demonstrative and declamatory school. Mdle. Adelina Patti has been again, as last year, one of the chief attractions of the season, having added to her other charming performances Marguerite in "Faust," her two first acts of the character possessing a grace and charm that have not been equalled by any other representative. An important addition to the company was the engagement of Mdle. Artot, who has also appeared as Marguerite, displaying considerable power in the later scenes, besides her admirable performance in "La Figlia del Reggimento,"—the best since that of Jenny Lind. Herr Schmid's fine bass voice and excellent style were briefly heard in the small part of Walter in "Tell," but illness prevented his improving his position here as he should have done, and doubtless will do next season. An agreeable surprise was afforded by Signor Mario's recovery of much of his former vocal energy, and his admirable singing and acting as Faust, adding another element of attraction to Gounod's successful opera. Signor Tamberlik too, by his heroic and impassioned Otello, and dignified and picturesque Prophète, has contributed to maintain the superiority of this house in the possession of the two greatest tenor singers of the day. M. Faure's picturesque acting and finished singing have been of material value to every work in which he has appeared. Signor Atti has gained an unexpected position by the fortuitous opportunities afforded him as a substitute for Herr Schmid. The former gentleman has quite established himself as a singer of ready and versatile powers. Signor Scialese, who appeared as Dr. Bartolo in "Il Barbiere," is a genuine buffo singer, who should be heard more of here. Of the remainder of the company, including Madame Didiée, Mdle. Frizzi, Mdle. Battu, Signori Ronconi, Graziani, Naudin, Neri-Baraldi, Tagliafico, and other less prominent artists, it is enough to say that their well-known admirable talents have contributed to raise the performances at this establishment to a point of unequalled efficiency. Of the band and chorus, and their conductor, Signor Costa, to say that they are as they were, is to say that they are all that could be desired. Of the novelties promised, two, it is true, were not forthcoming. But although we might have wished for the charming music of Nicolai's "Merry Wives of Windsor," especially for the sake of Herr Schmid's admirable performance of Falstaff, we could well dispense with Verdi's "La Forza del Destino," particularly as the absence of such novelties gave more scope for the repetition of the many great standard works which

are included in the programme of the Royal Italian Opera. Flotow's "Stradella" might well have been spared; but against it we have to place the revival of "L'Etoile du Nord," as above recorded, with a splendour and magnificence such as no other theatre could approach. As already implied, the subscribers and the public have small room for grumbling, but much cause for contentment with the Royal Italian Opera season of 1864.

At Her Majesty's Theatre "Oberon" has been revived, with recitatives added by Mr. Benedict, as given there last season. As with "L'Etoile du Nord," the work suffers by its alteration from its original form as a dialogue opera, and its prolongation by the interpolation of extraneous matter. The interest of the characters and situations, small as it is, is enhanced by the original spoken dialogue, but disappears altogether under the frigid influence of the stereotyped and conventional form of recitative. The insertion, too, of a duet and finale from "Euryanthe," a work conceived in so different a spirit, is unjust towards a composer who so notably studied "local colour" and keeping in his dramatic music. Madame Titiens, as Reiza, sings, especially in the scena "Ocean," with great declamatory power; but she wants the poetic grace required in Weber's dreamy and refined music. Signor Gardoni, as Sir Huon, with a finished vocalization and good dramatic intention, is scarcely heroic enough for the knight of Bordeaux. His scena, "O 'tis a glorious sight," originally written for the robust declamation of Braham, requires greater declamatory power than Signor Gardoni possesses. Madame Trebelli's Fatima is so good as almost to make us forget Madame Alboni in the part. The song, "O Araby," was given with charming simplicity and grace. Mr. Santley, as Sherasmin, gave prominence, by his admirable singing, to a part of small musical importance. Signor Bettini, as Oberon, is competent to the music originally assigned to the part; but the scena originally written for Sir Huon in the German version of the opera, and now transferred to Oberon, is quite beyond his powers. Mdle. Grossi, as Puck, and Mdle. Volpini, as the Mermaid, sang well, but in rather too earthly a style for their supposed nature and the truthfulness of the music. The same may be said of the chorus, especially the female voices, which scarcely realised the illusion of fairy-land. The orchestra, too, was much too noisy, a prevailing fault at this establishment, and one which is especially intolerable in music of such exquisite delicacy as that of Oberon. Signor Arditì is an admirable and energetic conductor, but he should not indulge his partiality for noise to the detriment of the instrumentation of such a master as Weber. The revival of "Oberon" is an event of interest, but its chances of success would have been far greater had the work been left more nearly in its original shape.

THE LONDON THEATRES.

AFTER much delay and many mysterious announcements, the "Anthropoglossos" has been given to the world, and, by paying a shilling each at St. James's Hall, the public may pass half an hour with this new mystery. In days when Greek lexicons are ransacked for strange compound terms with which to force the sale of shirts, goloshes, and fish-sauces, we can hardly wonder that showmen affect a learned style in their advertisements, and call a singing head an "Anthropoglossos." A title like this could hardly be wedded to plain prose in a prospectus, and we are, therefore, hardly astonished to find the proprietor of the "singing head" issuing freely the following Emersonian rhapsody:—

"Never, it is believed, since the very first sound of the human voice emanated from the earliest created of mankind, causing the oral mystery of sounded syllables to float upon the balmy airs of Paradise, until now has aught been perfected which could approximate in any real degree to the divinely-bestowed 'music of speech.' Many and varied have been the efforts made, from time to time, to accomplish this apparently impossible purpose, but all have proved alike worse than futile. It has been reserved for Mr. Giacompo Saguish, of Constantinople, to become the wonderful and fortunate inventor of an automaton head, which (miraculous to relate) he has so contrived, by means of the nicest and most exquisitely-constructed mechanism, that it can rival Nature herself in its vocal and elocutionary powers. To say that this astonishing phenomenon is unique is to express the very least of the wonders which it exhibits, and to the witnessing of which the generous, talent-appreciating public of Great Britain is now most respectfully invited. While so doing, it is humbly, yet confidently hoped, however high the expectations respecting this real prodigy may be raised, that in no single instance shall any person with whose patronage the exhibitor may be favoured meet a disappointment, but rather that each and all shall be compelled to acknowledge the 'half has not been told them.'"

We have seen the "singing head," and have heard its vocal performances, and, like the imaginary patron mentioned above, we are compelled to acknowledge that the "half has not been told us." We have seen a waxy-faced head, with a short trumpet in its mouth, and with a neck full of flashy machinery, suspended by gilded chains from the roof of the building in which it is shown, and have heard it sing some of the commonest music-hall songs with the tone and finish of a street-minstrel. Every vulgar turn was given to the melody, nearly every aspirate was left out of the words, and though the sound appeared to issue from the trumpet of the swinging-head, the effect produced was that of a wandering Jem Baggs chaunting in an adjoining room with his nose and mouth flattened against a speaking-tube. We have all heard of "The Invisible Girl," which first astonished and then amused the town many years ago; but it has been reserved for the present day to produce something like an invisible costermonger. The

words spoken by the "invisible girl" appeared to come from several trumpet-mouthed tubes, which were fixed in the middle of a four-footed stand—not unlike a small four-post bedstead. This acoustic trick was performed by having a pipe running down one of the legs of the stand, under the floor and into the next room, where the "girl"—a real girl—was stationed. Everything that was said in the apartment containing the machinery she could hear, and when she had to reply, her words went along the pipe, and passed from the framework into the tubes, from which they were reflected to the listeners. This may or may not be the plan upon which the "Anthropoglossos" is worked, but a very heavy railing is erected in front of the singing-head, which might easily act as a conductor of sound from any other part of the building.

The statement in the prospectus we have quoted, that many attempts have been made to construct singing heads, and that they have all proved failures, is simply false. Professor Faber, a German, exhibited a most ingenious piece of mechanism at the Egyptian Hall about sixteen years ago, which spoke many words, and sang the words and music of "God Save the Queen." There was no deception about this figure; the utmost amount of inspection was invited, and the fullest and clearest explanations were given. The head and bust stood upon a table in the middle of the room; the complex machinery was all exposed at the back, the lips and tongue of the figure moved, and the motion was given and regulated by two key-boards, such as pianos have. This was pure science, and we regret to hear that the ingenious and poorly rewarded inventor committed suicide and destroyed his figure in a fit of despondency. The "Anthropoglossos" may be pure science also, but if so, every care has been taken by its exhibitors to conceal the fact, and give an air of clever charlatanry to the exhibition.

Messrs. Bellingham and Best's new burlesque on the subject of the "Bohemian Girl," was produced at Sadler's Wells last Saturday, under the title of "Arlene, the Lost Child; or, the Pole, the Policeman, and the Polar Bear." After seeing the piece performed in a wretched style, and even glancing through the printed book, it would be unjust not to admit that it is quite equal to the average extravaganzas produced at West-end theatres. The parody is a little coarse and pantomimic in parts, but not more so than many parodies we have seen at the Strand, and the puns and songs are equally good, bad, and indifferent. There is the usual mock-melodramatic ruffian—the "Devilshoof" of the opera; the usual slang couplets, "nigger" choruses, flash dances, and jokes about transpontine performances; and there is more than the usual cleverness of construction in telling the story. Why such a production should have been transported in the dog-days to a dying theatre like Sadler's Wells, which has been beaten in the theatrical race, since the withdrawal of Mr. Phelps, by the superior energy shown by the proprietor of the Grecian and other managers of local theatres, is more than we can tell. There is still a great demand for this music-hall theatrical entertainment in the central homes of the drama, and "Arlene" is worthy of any manager's attention.

The "new" piece to be produced on Monday next at the Princess's is called "The Streets of London." It is another version by Mr. Boucicault of a French drama called the "Poor of Paris," which has been performed, under local titles, in nearly every chief provincial town. The fact that it is an adaptation is honestly stated in the bills, and Mr. Boucicault says that he has obtained the right of adapting it from the English assignee of the French authors. This assignee is Mr. Charles Reade, who, less honest than the dramatist, has undoubtedly founded his celebrated novel of "Hard Cash" on this work of MM. Brisebarre and Nus without a word of acknowledgment. When and where will this living on the brains of French writers cease?

Miss Stella Colas will finish her engagement at the Princess's Theatre to-night (Saturday), by playing "Juliet" for the benefit of Mr. Ryder, one of her instructors in what the *Times* somewhat pompously called "the language of Shakespeare." In her future performances in this country she will do well to forget much that she has been taught, particularly the mouthing style of elocution popular with our growling tragedians. Her dramatic genius and command of the language will be best shown in comedy, if we are to judge by her delightful playfulness as the boy *Peblo* in the pedantic "Monastery of St. Just."

The Drury Lane management, we believe, intend to produce Milton's mask of "Comus," early in the winter season. We have had no stage representation of this poem since Mr. Macready produced it during his management at Drury Lane.

A new comedieta, adapted from the French by the adapter of "Ici on Parle Français," and called "My Wife's Maid," will be played at the Adelphi next Monday, with Mr. Toole in the principal character.

Mr. Alfred Wigan, as the representative of a body of shareholders, is said to be surveying the Alhambra with a view of purchasing it, and converting it into a theatre. The Alhambra is "in the market," and is, without exception, one of the finest buildings in London; but it is no more adapted for the class of performances which would or ought to be given under Mr. Wigan's direction, than St. Paul's Cathedral would be. The Alhambra might make an excellent opera-house, or spectacular arena, but no ingenuity nor capital can ever turn it into a good comedy theatre. No house that Mr. Wigan can take and direct should be an inch larger than the Haymarket.

Mr. E. T. Smith is said to be negotiating with a "flying-man," who has a winged apparatus under which he can ascend standing in stirrups, and direct his course to any point with remarkable speed and precision. We have had flying-men before, but the utmost

they ever did was to tumble off elevations, and to use machinery, more or less elaborate, to break their fall. There is a vast difference between a feat of this kind and flying, and it remains to be seen whether Mr. E. T. Smith's wonder will do better.

A PARIS letter in the *Gironde* says:—"A sad piece of news has been circulating here during the last few days. M. Gounod, the composer of "Faust" and "Mireille," is reported to have been taken to a private lunatic asylum at St. Cloud. His case, however, is not considered hopeless. M. Gounod has made an engagement to write a work for Germany, and it is supposed that excessive application brought on temporary insanity."

MR. FRANK MORI writes to the *Times* to state that the music of "L'Etoile du Nord" was not consumed in the burning of Covent Garden Theatre on February 5, 1856. The full score was in Mr. Mori's possession, intrusted to him by Messrs. Cramer & Co., to produce for their house a complete edition.

MR. TELBIN, the scene-painter, sued M. Fechter, last week, to recover £130, being a balance of £400, for which sum he was to paint scenery for the production of "Hamlet" at the Lyceum Theatre. M. Fechter resisted the demand, alleging that the scenes were unsatisfactory, and not completed in time; but the jury, being directed by Mr. Baron Martin to consider whether the contract had not been in substance fulfilled, found a verdict for the plaintiff.

MRS. WOOD, the once celebrated vocalist, expired on Thursday se'night at Bulcliffe Hall, Bretton West, near Wakefield, where she had resided for the last twelve months. Mrs. Wood had retired from public life for many years, and devoted her talents to the teaching of music at Leeds. In the zenith of her reputation as a vocalist, she was married to Lord William Lennox. The union, however, did not prove a happy one, and no very long time elapsed before a separation, followed by a divorce, took place. She subsequently married Mr. Wood, himself a vocalist of considerable talent.

A COMMISSION of twelve engineers, scene-painters, architects, &c., presided over by a member of the Institute, has been appointed to examine the improvements to be introduced into the machinery and decorations of the New Opera in Paris.

COLONEL BROWNLOW KNOX has again failed in his attempt to prove a partnership with Mr. Gye in the Royal Italian Opera. The case was argued last year before Vice-Chancellor Wood. It was again argued before the Lords Justices in May last, who on Thursday gave judgment, dismissing the bill without prejudice. The case will probably be carried to the House of Lords.

AN appeal is made to the charitable public in behalf of an old favourite, Mr. Love, the ventriloquist, who, in his day, has amused many a crowded audience. Some four or five years ago he was attacked by paralysis of the tongue, brought on by the exercise of his vocation, and since then has been living on his savings. These being nearly exhausted, Mrs. Love took a small house in Arundel-street, Strand, with a view to taking in lodgers; but this street becoming the principal channel for carting ballast to the Thames embankment, the lodgers have departed, and poor Mr. and Mrs. Love, with a family of fifteen children more or less dependent on them, are left penniless. Messrs. Twining, bankers, 212, Strand, will receive subscriptions on their behalf.

A GREAT musical fête has been held in Berne, in Switzerland, which was attended by Swiss singers belonging to a hundred distinct musical societies. The town was decorated, and salvoes of artillery were given, and processions formed, as if in honour of some great political event.

SCIENCE.

M. BOUTIN describes the general features and contents of the bone-cave of Aven-Laurier. Beside several fossil human jaws and other bones which he discovered in the cavern, the following specimens are also enumerated:—

The cannon-bone of a young ruminant; the olecranon process of a large ruminant; a lance-shaped flint weapon; a fragment of the lower jaw of an ox; the anterior portion of another ox-jaw—this specimen presented three incisions, and was imbedded in the stalagmite; the complete cannon-bones of an ox; and, finally, the canine teeth of a fox, which were pierced with holes.

The conclusions to be drawn from M. Cahours' beautiful memoir on the respiration of flowers may be stated thus:—(1) Flowers placed in a limited atmosphere of ordinary air consume oxygen and produce carbonic acid in variable proportions, and whether the flowers be odorous or not. (2) *Ceteris paribus*, the proportion of carbonic acid increases with the external temperature. (3) That generally in the case of flowers taken from the same plant, and whose weights are equal, the quantity of carbonic acid is a little greater when the apparatus in which the experiment is being made is exposed to bright light, than when it is placed in the dark; but that, in some instances, the products are the same even under the two opposite conditions. (4) When the ordinary air is replaced by pure oxygen, the phenomena are much more marked. (5) The flower which is in process of development produces a greater quantity of carbonic acid than that which is fully grown, this being attributable to the greater amount of vital action which goes on in the former. (6) Every flower enclosed in an atmosphere of indifferent gas evolves small quantities of carbonic acid. (7) Of all the elements which constitute the flower, the stamens and pistil are those which, by reason of their greater vitality, consume the largest quantity of oxygen, and liberate the most carbonic acid.

It has just been shown by Mr. Tomlinson, of King's College,

that other chemical compounds besides camphor possess the remarkable property of gyrating upon the surface of water. If a few drops of oil of bitter almonds be exposed to the air in a watch glass they will, in the course of some hours, solidify into thin crystallised flakes of benzoic acid. One or two of these flakes placed on the surface of clean water in a clean glass will rotate with great vigour, throwing off a visible film, the reaction of which produces the motion. In a shallow glass vessel, four inches in diameter, the motions last longer than in a vessel of smaller diameter; but when the adhesion of the surface is satisfied, by being completely covered with a thin film, the motions can be renewed by removing the flake of benzoic acid to a vessel of clean water. This experiment demonstrates that benzoic acid acts like camphor, and that the motions of both are produced by the reaction of the particles which they give off, which tend to form a film.

The wells hitherto discovered in Pompeii have been dry, but one has now been found containing water, and a specimen of the latter has been transmitted to Professor Lura for analysis.

It is said that a company with a large capital has been formed in Spain, for the purpose of carrying a telegraph across the Atlantic by a new route. Starting from Cadiz, the cable will touch at the Canary Isles, Cape Verde, Fernando di Noronha; thence it will pass across the Atlantic to Brazil, and on to French Guiana, the Antilles, Porto Rico, and Havanah, where a series of lines will join it to the North American telegraphs. The longest submarine section will be only about 750 miles.

Some time since it was stated by M. de Claubry that the dialytic method was not yet employed in medico-legal inquiries, and that in a recent trial the chemist examined had not made any experiments with the dialyser in order to discover traces of digitaline. M. Tardieu now addresses the Academy upon the subject, and while admitting the accuracy of M. de Claubry's researches, he shows that in the case referred to dialysis had been attempted, but with unsuccessful results.

In delivering one of the Cantor lectures, Dr. Crace Calvert alluded to the subject of bird's-nest gelatine, so much used in China in the preparation of soup. These curious gelatinous products are not only considered great delicacies in India and China, but even in Europe, where they realise from £3 to £7 per pound. It has long been a disputed question, what is the chemical nature of the substance composing these nests, which are the product of a peculiar kind of swallow; but M. Payen, by his recent researches, has left no doubt in the minds of chemists that it is an animal not a vegetable matter. In fact, it is a peculiar mucous substance, secreted by the bird, and comprised of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulphur. Further, it is insoluble in cold water, but soluble in boiling, and differs from gelatine and isinglass, in that it does not gelatinize as it cools.

M. Sauvo denies the originality of M. Hiffelsheim's discovery of the heart's recoil after the contraction of the ventricles. He states that, in his inaugural address in August, 1840, he put forward an almost identical theory. The ape-origin-of-man doctrine has found a new opponent in Signor Biancone, of the University of Bologna, who has given some attention to a comparison of the man-like apes with the human species. His observations refer to the osseous system, and especially to the head and extremities. He finds that in the jaws of the Gorilla and Orang, although the molar teeth are fangiverous, and resemble those of man; the canines are those of a carnivorous animal such as the lion or tiger, and are provided with quite as powerful a muscular apparatus as that of either of those species.

MONEY AND COMMERCE.

MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES.

WE are again in the midst of the half-yearly meetings, and fortunate shareholders are hurrying from one of these to another to assist at the usual demonstration of enthusiastic cheering, which is so characteristic on these occasions. The affable chairman, the array of highly-respectable directors, the indefatigable secretary, the self-complacent auditors, and the good-natured shareholders, with here and there an exception, combine to form a picture pleasant to contemplate. When the last sheet of the report is read, and the "dividend for the half-year, free of income-tax," duly announced, the shareholders, forgetting their past anxieties, give themselves up to the excitement of the moment, and "Our Chairman" accepts the "three times three" with the greatest possible dignity, and the business of the meeting is happily concluded. We have not the slightest objection to any one particular in this scene. Everything is satisfactorily and harmoniously arranged, and we have no wish to spoil the piece; but there is a view of this question, which, though not at first sight important to shareholders in the particular companies now declaring such high dividends, is of considerable moment to that part of the general public which has been accustomed to invest in the funds and other securities bearing a nominal rate of interest. It must be evident to anyone, that if dividends at the rate of from £20 to £50 per cent. per annum be the rule amongst banks and the leading financial companies, not only will those

useful adventures be neglected, which offer but a modest, though perhaps safe, uniform return for capital, but people who once become accustomed to a high rate of interest soon learn to spend at a proportionably increased rate. An extravagant manner of life is already too prevalent amongst commercial and financial men, and our present state of inflation or prosperity is not calculated to induce caution. We may probably now look for more banks and more financial companies, who will be expected to make equal dividends, and a variety of other undertakings of all kinds; but, notwithstanding present appearances, the end must come, and when it does, words of warning neglected now may seem to have a value which, from the generality of readers, we cannot at present expect for them.

We cannot help thinking that an arrangement is needed which, though it might perhaps partially diminish the periodical enthusiasm to which we have alluded, and perhaps lessen the dividends sometimes, would in some measure, if not entirely, enlighten the shareholders as to the manner in which those dividends are earned, and perhaps save many an unfortunate shareholder from ruin while it is yet time. Many shareholders live at a great distance from the scene of the company's operations; with every confidence in the directors, they are yet in perfect ignorance of the position of affairs, and are only made acquainted with it by the reports. If they could at their pleasure appoint a permanent auditor, giving him a seat at the Board, though without authority to vote or in any way take part in its transactions beyond recording the proceedings, and from time to time reporting the same to them upon request, a direct communication would thus be established which could not fail to benefit all parties.

This officer should make it a part of his duty to look into and check all the accounts as they came before him weekly, or even daily if necessary, and thus be the means of preventing anything like the great frauds which occasionally are discovered, and prove beyond dispute how necessary and useful an auditor, with such a relation between directors and shareholders, would be. Being independent of the directors, he would be no party to any mismanagement, and in this the shareholders would have an additional security. Nor would his presence in any way interfere with the freedom of the directors. Their operations would be brought more immediately under the knowledge of the general body of shareholders, and thus a harmony would be established, that could not fail to increase the dividends of those companies whose business was successful; and, on the other hand, prevent a disgraceful failure on the part of the less fortunate ones.

THE eagerness with which the commercial public have pressed for money during the week, and the rapidity with which the rates have been run up, seem to be partly owing to an impression that the credit system, not merely in the region of joint-stock enterprise but in mercantile quarters, has latterly become somewhat stretched. The demand is still very active, and extreme caution is necessary, it being believed that much of the paper presented is not drawn for strictly commercial or banking purposes, but that an extensive system of "kite-flying" is in active operation, which, in the case of any untoward event, would inevitably cause disastrous results. The terms generally demanded for discount have been firm at 7 to 7½ per cent., and it has been difficult to discount the best paper, excepting at the Bank, even at these rates. On Government securities money has commanded 6½ to 7 per cent.

The last Bank return bears witness to a generally increased demand for money. The drain from the capital for harvest purposes in the country has become rather more important, and the large decline in private deposits is another indication of the active state of the inquiry in mercantile circles. The decrease in the coin and bullion is £529,551, and that in the reserve is £652,721.

Consequent on the advance in the Bank rate of discount at the beginning of the week from 6 to 7 per cent., the joint-stock banks and discount houses have generally raised their rate of interest on deposits to 5 per cent. The London and Westminster, however, only allow that rate on sums above £500, and 4 per cent. on smaller sums. The National Discount Company give 4½ per cent. at call, 5 per cent. at 7 days' notice, and 6 per cent. at 14 days' notice.

One cause of heaviness of most of the foreign securities in the London market is stated to consist in the absence of the usual demand from Holland and Germany. Hitherto, whenever any particular stock has fallen to a very low price, purchasers have almost always been found at Amsterdam or Frankfort, but latterly the Germans and Dutch have neglected every other kind of investment in their eagerness to buy the bonds of the United States Government, and for that purpose, too, they have been constant sellers of the classes of stocks they were formerly accustomed to deal in. The lowest estimate of the amount they now hold of Federal securities is about thirty millions sterling.

There have been dealings in India stock (1874) at 215; 5 per cents. (1870), 105-4¾; 5 per cent. enfaced paper (1872), 105½-4¾; 5½ per cents. (1879), 114½; debentures, 99½.

The avidity with which the public have applied for shares in the newly-advertised Anglo-Egyptian Bank during the present week, and a short time back for those of the Société Générale Ottoman, bear witness to the disposition to encourage projects of a *bonâ fide* character, with a sufficient field for their exertions. On the first appearance of the advertisement for the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, the

shares were quoted at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 premium, from which price they rose rapidly to 4 premium; and Société Générale Ottoman, 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$ premium.

The Committee of the Stock Exchange have unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that no company shall be admitted to official quotation unless some member be authorized by such company to give the committee full information as to the formation and *bona-fides* of the undertaking, the application for, and distribution or allotment of shares, and every other particular the committee may require.

They have appointed Monday, August 1, a special settling day in the following securities:—Humber Iron Works and Ship-building Company (Limited), to be marked, in transactions only entered into on and after 11th May; Société Générale de l'Empire Ottoman, on transactions only entered into on and after 13th July; but the shares shall not be admitted to quotation in the official lists, the committee not being satisfied with the manner in which the Company has been formed.

This decision of the Stock Exchange Committee as to the non-quotation of the shares of the Société Générale de l'Empire Ottoman does not appear to have had the effect which might have been anticipated. The immediate result was to cause the shares to fall to $2\frac{3}{8}$ prem., but they soon improved to $2\frac{5}{8}$, good purchases having been effected by some of the principal brokers; and it is believed that the undertaking is of too important a nature to be greatly influenced by the exclusion, but that dealings will, in all probability, take place in the shares on the same conditions as those in the Confederate Loan and Turkish Consolidated.

The report at the Bullion Office of the Bank presented no feature of public interest. The demand for gold on Continental account has slackened, but it is likely to be resumed after the lapse of a few days.

The amount of Government bills on India for which tenders will be received at the Bank of England, on the 3rd of August, is 30,00,000 rupees (£300,000).

The London Joint-Stock Bank propose to increase their subscribed capital from £3,000,000 to £4,000,000, by the creation of 20,000 new shares of £50 each, of which 12,000 only are to be at present issued.

The East of England Bank, a joint-stock bank in Norfolk, with nine branches and three agencies, has suspended, with liabilities to the extent of £600,000. The bank has suffered great losses from very long-continued railway speculations. The *Times* says:—"It is feared that the deficiency to be made up by the shareholders will be considerable, possibly twice as much as the entire capital and reserve fund, amounting to £103,584, the whole of which will also be lost." The business has been transferred to the Provincial Banking Corporation, the larger portion of the sum to be paid for it being dependent upon the actual results of the working for the first twelve months.

The railway traffic returns for the past week show a receipt of £683,338 on 11,194 miles open, against £616,766 on 11,000 miles open in the corresponding week of 1863, and £605,246 on 10,360 miles open in 1862. This exhibits an increase of £66,572 over the corresponding week of 1863, and of £78,092 over 1862. The receipts per mile per week show an increase, as compared with those of 1863, of £5. 1s. 4d., and of £2. 14s. 3d. over 1862.

During the year preceding the 11th of April, 1864, there were in the London and the seven District Courts of Bankruptcy 351 bankruptcies, in which the creditors removed the proceedings from the Court under composition deeds, &c., while 137 bankruptcies were annulled under such resolutions. There were 231 managers appointed to act under supervision of the creditors. Of orders made by the commissioners for the sale of bankrupts' effects, before the appointment of assignees, there were 2,590; and 973 sales took place by public auction, 1,030 by private contract; in 115 cases no sale took place, while in many cases the orders were made under a discretionary power. In no case have bankrupts' estates sustained losses by the failure or defalcation of the creditors' assignees, nor have the creditors' assignees been debited with the 20 per cent. interest allowed under the 175th section of the Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

The deliveries in London in the tea trade estimated for the week were 1,266,569lb., which is an increase of 327,023lb. compared with the previous statement.

The directors of the Devonshire Great Consolidated Copper Mining Company, at their late board meeting, declared a dividend of £10,240, being £10 per share, arising from profits on sales of copper ores sampled in the months of March and April last. After payment of the same there remains in hand a balance of £23,554. 1s. 4d.

A correspondent of the *Mining Journal* writes:—"A very interesting discovery of gold has just been made at the Welsh Gold Mining Company's mines, near Dolgelly. In cutting a lobby, or entrance to an adit, an ancient channel, or 'gutter,' descending the mountain side, was intersected. The gutter was filled with the diluvium washed down from the mountain; and out of this diluvium, within a very short space, several boulders of quartz were taken, one of which, weighing less than 1 cwt., yielded the astonishing quantity of 18 oz. of gold, or at the rate of 360 oz. of gold per ton. The smaller stones averaged 60 oz. per ton. As the traces of several other diluvial gutters have been found, leading down from the back of the great gold load into the valley beneath, the Welsh Gold Mining Company are about to make a thorough examination of those localities, as they promise to be as productive as any in California or Australia."

AN improvement is exhibited in the last weekly return of the Bank of France. There is an increase of £116,000 in bullion, of £800,000 in the Treasury balances, and of £880,000 in the current accounts, together with a falling off of £1,115,000 in the discounts, of £48,000 in the advances, and of £176,000 in the notes. The pressure upon the Bank is thus shown to have diminished.

THE Crédit Foncier of Paris has advanced to individual companies and provincial authorities no less than 603,000,000 francs since its establishment in 1852; that is an average of 50,250,000 francs annually.

THE Société Financière d'Egypte have been appointed agents for the Imperial Mercantile Credit Association at Paris and in Egypt.

A CRÉDIT FONCIER for Spain is being organized, with a capital of 300,000,000 reals.

At Paris, Vienna, and Turin, the rate of discount in the open market is 6 per cent.; Amsterdam and Berlin, $4\frac{1}{4}$; Hamburg, $3\frac{1}{4}$; Frankfort, 3; Brussels, $5\frac{1}{2}$; and St. Petersburg, 5 per cent.

LATE advices from New York state that Secretary Fessenden has appealed to the bankers for a loan of 50,000,000 dols. until September 1st, to meet the immediate wants of Government. It is asserted that Mr. Fessenden intends curtailing the currency, and to bring it down to meet the provision in the 2nd section of the New Loan Act which declares that the total amount of United States notes issued or to be issued shall never exceed 400,000,000 dols.

THE resolutions moved by Sir C. Wood upon the occasion of his annual statement relative to the East India revenue accounts presented the following result:—The total net revenues of the several Presidencies for the year ending the 30th of April, 1863, amounted to £36,662,867; the total charges, £24,968,240; surplus of Indian revenue, £11,694,627. Interest on debt, £3,351,680; charges defrayed in England, £6,515,601; total, £9,867,281. Surplus of Indian income, £1,827,346.

THE traffic receipts on the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, with 322 miles open, amounted for the month of June to 73,654 dols. for passengers and mails, and 240,867 dols. for freight; total, 314,521 dols., being at the rate of 245 dols. per mile per week. The total receipts from the first of January to the end of June, on the 322 miles, amounted to 1,389,539 dols.

THE money market (says the *Times of India*) has become much easier in the past fortnight, and the Bank of Bombay has again reduced its rate of discount 5 per cent. all round, making a reduction of 7 per cent. in three weeks. Notwithstanding this increased ease, however, the share market has been unusually flat, and the quotations of almost all descriptions of stock are reduced. We learn from the same source that the "Bank of China, Limited," has just been started with a capital of sixty lacs of rupees; and that a French shipping company has just been formed, with a capital of Rs. 20,000,000.

THE public revenue of South Australia in the year ending the 31st of March, 1864, amounted to £694,545—an increase of £133,515 over the previous year; but £33,000 of the increase appears to be due to a change in the mode of making up the accounts. The expenditure of the year was £675,465—an increase of £85,312, the chief increase being in immigration charges. The exports of Colonial produce from South Australia in the first quarter of 1864 reached the unprecedented amount of more than £1,000,000, nearly half of it being in cereals.

ADVICES from Turin state that as the question of the cession of the State railways to Messrs. Rothschild is postponed, the Minister of Finance has obtained an authorisation to issue 50,000,000 lire treasury bills, the circulation of which now amounts to 200,000,000, or about £8,000,000.

ADVICES from Athens give the following particulars:—Fresh difficulties have arisen within the last few days between the Cabinet and M. Baltazzi upon the subject of the intended Crédit Foncier Bank. The capitalist has again yielded to the demands of the Ministry. The effect of the dispute has been that the National Bank, which had already lowered its charge for discount from 8 to 7 per cent. has reduced it now to 6. The Hellenic Steamship Company has just published its balance-sheet for 1862 to 1863, whence it appears that the deficit existing two years ago of 920,000 drachmas has now given place to a surplus of 174,000. The general balance-sheet of the National Bank for the last six months shows a dividend to shareholders of 57 drachmas 50 centimes, equal to 12 per cent. The reserve fund exceeds three millions, while the capital in shares amounts to ten million drachmas.

THE Brazil and River Plate mail bring the following announcement:—Amongst other important projects occupying the public attention was one proposed by Don Norberto Riestra, for the redemption of the depreciated paper currency of the Republic. The merits of the measure are, of course, variously estimated; but the general opinion would seem to be that it is based on sound financial principles. Senor Riestra is admittedly the first financier in the River Plate, and there is some reason to believe his scheme will receive the sanction of the Legislature. In any case, however, it will meet with strong and energetic resistance from Senor Riestra's political opponents and from that section of the community whose interest would be injuriously affected by the proposed interference with the paper currency. If the project is passed by the Legislature, the Mauá and River Plate banks would be entitled to issue their own bank notes, by which means a great boon would be conferred upon the commercial community.

THE dividend due the 1st August on the British Consolidated Debt of Guatemala is advertised for payment.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

EIGHTEEN YEARS OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT.*

At the commencement of the last session of the Corps Législatif, M. Rouher, in the course of a reply to M. Thiers, was good enough to favour the world with his view of the results of parliamentary government under Louis Philippe. Nothing could possibly be more simple or more trenchant. The foreign policy of the Government of July was, according to the Minister of State, without force and without dignity; while its domestic policy was a mere series of struggles to maintain a precarious existence in the face of portentous difficulties. To use the emphatic words with which he concluded, and which have suggested the title of the Count de Montalivet's work, "*Ce gouvernement n'a rien produit.*" It is now too late to remark on the bad taste and the want of generosity of such reproaches, directed by a Minister of Louis Napoleon against the rule of Louis Philippe. From the beginning of his reign to the present hour, neither the Emperor nor his Ministers have lost any opportunity of injuring the House of Orleans, or degrading them in the eyes of their countrymen. The burden of gratitude for a life twice spared lies too heavily on the sovereign—the recollection of principles deserted and of professions betrayed weighs too oppressively upon the minds of many amongst his present servants—to permit them to dwell with any equanimity upon "the eighteen years of parliamentary government" from 1830 to 1848. The decree by which the ex-Royal family were despoiled of their private property represents faithfully the spirit in which Buonapartism has addressed itself to the task of crushing or defaming the exiled dynasty which it really fears. The best proof that Louis Philippe did not live or reign in vain is to be found in the fact that the period which France passed in prosperity and freedom under his rule seems to haunt with disagreeable recollections the present occupant of the Tuileries. In the fulness of his absolute power, he cannot bear the mention of a Constitutional régime. While he and the writers whose venal pens he commands spare no pains to represent it as inglorious and sterile, they are troubled by misgivings that it is not the view of intelligent and thoughtful Frenchmen. To what lengths of suppression or misrepresentation they are ready to go is well illustrated by a recent occurrence. In the course of last year it occurred to the Minister of Public Instruction that it was desirable to enlighten the rising generation upon the recent history of their country. He accordingly prepared a sketch, which was remarkable for the omission of almost every event and every achievement which could reflect honour upon the Government of 1830. This was too much even for "*le conseil supérieur de l'instruction publique*" of the Emperor Napoleon, and the Minister was obliged to submit to the most extensive modifications of a narrative which was nothing less than an elaborate *suppressio veri*.

To this incident, upon which he dwells with pardonable warmth, we perhaps, in some measure, owe Count de Montalivet's defence of the Government which he served so faithfully, although its immediate provocation was the speech of M. Rouher, to which we have already referred. From few men could such a defence come more gracefully or with better effect; for the Count is not only an ex-Minister of Louis Philippe, but the son of a Minister of the first Napoleon. He has, therefore, a peculiar right to remind the present ruler of France how generously the old soldiers of his uncle were welcomed, and how sedulously the glories of the great war were respected, by the monarch whose reputation it is now sought to tarnish. Addressing himself to answering the Minister of State, M. de Montalivet points out, with great justice and force, how much more difficult was the task which awaited Louis Philippe in 1832 than that which the present Emperor undertook in 1852. In the first case, the King had to restore order and to check the further progress of a revolution which had not proceeded so far as to terrify society into a readiness to accept any government which offered itself as a protection against anarchy; and this had to be accomplished by the means, and without overstepping the limits, prescribed by a constitutional system. In the latter case, the Emperor found a society frightened out of its wits by the events of 1848, alarmed by the perils which still menaced it, and demanding only to be saved at any price. The nation was prepared to submit to the despotism which he established, and by establishing which he relieved himself at once from the embarrassments which are inevitably attendant on the attempt to reconcile order with freedom. Notwithstanding, however, the difficulties which Louis Philippe had to encounter, there is no doubt that he commenced his reign by making France respected abroad. Nothing can be less correct than to represent his policy as having been one of peace at any price. The promptness with which he assisted Belgium had the greatest share in establishing the independence of that kingdom; although we must remark, that in the work before us small justice is done to the earnest and effective co-operation of England. The attitude maintained and the language held soon afterwards towards the sovereigns of the Holy Alliance, when they threatened to intervene in order to prevent revolutionary or liberal movements in Piedmont and Switzerland, were full of firmness and dignity; while, in conjunction with England, France contributed greatly to the success of the Constitutionalists in Spain and Portugal, and prevented the abso-

lutist Powers from giving to Don Carlos and Don Miguel the assistance which they were otherwise prepared to afford. We regret to say, that, with the fatal inconsistency which still clings to the Orleans party, Louis Philippe at the same time sent an army to Ancona for the purpose of supporting the Pope against his subjects—for the purpose, that is, of doing in Italy exactly that which he prevented Prussia from attempting in Belgium. However, as against Louis Napoleon, at all events, M. de Montalivet has a right to cite this as an instance of vigour and energy. It is, indeed, generally admitted that the King's foreign policy in the early years of his reign is entitled to respect. But it is alleged that, as he became firmly seated on the throne, he inclined towards the cultivation of friendly relations with the despotic Powers, and suffered his love of peace to degenerate into pusillanimity. We quite agree with M. de Montalivet in thinking such an accusation unjust; although we certainly do not think he is at all fortunate in some of the facts upon which he relies for his defence. We should have thought that the most thorough-going Orleanist would have been glad to allow the story of the Spanish marriages to rest in peace. Whatever doubt ever existed as to the true character of that miserable transaction was removed by the publication of the correspondence found in the King's cabinet in February, 1848. No one can doubt that the engagement entered into with Lord Aberdeen was shamelessly violated, and that the Queen of Spain was half forced, half inveigled, into a union with her present husband upon a calculation of a very odious kind. It is, however, for our present purpose more important to observe that that piece of astute family policy was regarded at the time with anything but satisfaction and pride by Frenchmen. On the contrary, it increased the contempt which a considerable portion of the nation had then come to entertain for the King's pacific course. They had seen him conciliatory and disposed to compromise on many points on which they would have had him take an aggressive or, at any rate, a high-handed tone. They now saw him set England at defiance in the most decided manner, and incur the risk of provoking the jealousy of the other powers for the aggrandisement of his own family. It was certainly only natural that they should draw an inference very unfavourable to his character as a King. And we know, as a matter of fact, that the marriage of the Duke de Montpensier to the Infanta tended very much to strengthen the impression which had been previously growing up, that the King's heart was entirely set upon family and domestic matters, and that he was ready to sacrifice to them the interests of France, and even the peace which was so dear to him. M. Montalivet is more fortunate in reminding his readers of the conquest of Algeria; of the increase and reorganization of the army; of the large additions to the navy; and of the fortifications of Paris. We doubt, however, whether he will, after all, succeed in convincing the great body of his countrymen that France did not occupy a somewhat degraded position during the reign of Louis Philippe. Able as he was, the King never understood that it was necessary to gratify the theatrical tastes of his subjects. He forgot that Frenchmen require to be constantly delighted with the spectacle of France interposing here and exercising influence there, in a striking and conspicuous manner. He did nothing for the mere purpose of effect, and he did not know how to make the most of what he did do. He was a politician and a statesman; but he did not appreciate at its true value the "stage business" of government, and fatally under-estimated the importance of glitter and noise.

Turning to the other count of the indictment, M. de Montalivet shows successfully that constitutional government in France was far from sterile—that its strength was not wasted in mere parliamentary contests. Many important law reforms were effected; the systems of punishment and prison discipline were reorganized and ameliorated; the National Guard was created; roads, railroads, and canals were constructed on a considerable scale, and large additions were made to the public buildings which perpetuate the historical recollections, or flatter the just pride, of a tasteful and art-loving people; the principal ports of the kingdom, both military and commercial, were fortified and improved; agriculture was liberally encouraged; savings banks were largely developed; the number of Catholic churches was greatly increased; the endowments of the clergy were considerably augmented, and the education of the people was energetically promoted, through the establishment both of primary schools and of institutes of a higher class. In 1830 there were in the schools of all kinds not more than a million pupils; in 1848 the number had increased to 3,784,797. This result was attributable, in a great degree, to the action of the Government, which had with great solicitude and skill adapted the means of instruction to the wants of different classes. During the same period, pauperism actually diminished; although no doubt, under the influence of the socialistic and communistic ideas which had become prevalent, discontent with poverty increased. The revenue augmented by 300 millions of francs; while, during the eighteen years of parliamentary government, commerce—that infallible sign of the prosperity of a country—more than doubled. It was not, indeed, the fault of the King that the commercial progress of the country was not still more rapid; for he was strongly in favour of free trade, while then, as now, the great majority of Frenchmen were strong protectionists.

Looking to these facts—seeing how much was done to develop the industrial resources of the country, and to promote its interests both material and moral—recollecting how all this was accomplished, not at the expense of liberty, but consistently with a far larger allowance of it than France had ever known before or has since,—

* Rien! Dix-huit Années de Gouvernement Parlementaire. Par M. Le Comte de Montalivet, ancien Ministre. Paris: Michel Lévy Frères.

one is naturally led to ask how it was that the Government of Louis Philippe failed (for after all it did fail) to acquire the respect or the warm attachment of the great bulk of the French nation. M. Montalivet does not disguise from himself that some explanation is required of the fact that a government such as he has described fell by a street riot—by a mere accident, like the revolution of 1848—and fell unlamented at the time, although, no doubt, bitterly lamented afterwards. Let us see how he puts the question, and how he answers it:—

"Maintenant, quand on examine l'esprit et la portée de toutes les mesures dont nous venons de parler, quand on ajoute qu'au moment de sa chute le gouvernement proposait aux chambres un ensemble de mesures non moins populaires sur la réforme des monts-de-piété, la fondation des caisses de retraite pour les ouvriers et la mise en valeur des biens communaux, on demeure confondu, non de la persistance de quelques critiques intéressées, mais des égarements du peuple, objet de tant de sollicitude, qui traitant à l'égal de crimes d'État les hésitations et les fautes d'un optimisme trop aveugle, renversa en un jour de délire, par une révolution faite au nom de la liberté, le gouvernement le plus libéral qui ait existé en France.

"Mais pourquoi cet étonnement? Dans notre pays, épris des effets de scène, il s'agit bien moins d'être que de paraître.

"La monarchie constitutionnelle et parlementaire de 1830 n'a pas assez parlé du peuple, n'a pas su parler au peuple; telle a été sa faute.

"Elle s'est beaucoup et utilement occupée du peuple: ce sera son éternel honneur."

No doubt this is quite true; but it is not the whole truth. The Government of July rested from the beginning upon far too narrow a basis. The franchise was unreasonably restricted; and the King and successive Ministers, unfortunately, took advantage of this to bring the electors under administrative manipulation. The people naturally came to look upon the Chamber with contempt, as a set of Government nominees elected by placemen. But the mischief did not stop there. Having got a Chamber which did not represent and control public opinion, Louis Philippe and M. Guizot persisted in acting as if it was all in all. They resolutely and blindly ignored public opinion out of doors, and were always ready to brave it, on the strength of a majority in the Legislature which they had themselves in great measure nominated. The result was inevitable. The King and the nation became thoroughly estranged from each other in feeling and in sentiment. The latter, it is true, had no grievances which would have led it to overturn the throne; but, on the other hand, it "did not care" if the mob of Paris chose to have a revolution. The fault of the Government of July was not that it was too constitutional, but that it was not constitutional enough. It fell because it had not struck its roots sufficiently deep into French society. But, with whatever faults we may reproach that Government, either in its domestic or foreign policy, it does not lie in the mouth of the statesmen of the Second Empire to dwell upon them. We have no hesitation in saying that M. Montalivet has answered very completely the ungenerous and shameless perversions of history to which M. Rouher resorted in order to obtain a questionable victory in debate.

CHRISTIAN ART.*

THAT religion and art should have been associated from the very earliest and most primitive conditions of the human race was almost as natural a consequence as that language should grow out of the desire to express the names of objects and the wishes of the mind. Indeed, these two great expressional means have in some measure sprung from the same source—the propensity to imitate,—in the one case, peculiar sounds; in the other, the form or imaginary appearance presented to the thoughts. But no words could ever have sufficed, even among savages, to tell of godlike and celestial wonders and Almighty presence; and hence the portentous creations of barbaric art in the archaic representations of the deities of Pagan times. In these rudely but vigorously-carved gods of wood and stone—whether it be the demon-like creature of the South-Sea savage, or the primitive Minerva or Hermes of the ancient Greeks—we can trace the attempt to express the idea of a superhuman personality, awful and all-powerful. The grandest of all examples of art which remain from a later period must be attributed to the working of the same feeling, modified by the taste for beauty that grew with classic culture. It is, indeed, remarkable that mythological subjects were universally preferred by the Greeks to historic, and that perfection was attained then mainly as the offspring of religious aspirations; for when Greek art forsook Athens for Rome, the deities were modelled as portraits of the fashionable beauties of the day, and art became proportionably debased. It was reserved for Christian art to expand into a far nobler and wider range of beauty, when Pagan art had sunk into a condition contemptible even to the Greeks and Romans themselves. Although the very earliest signs of art in the service of Christianity were entirely opposed to any sculptural or pictorial representation, amongst the Jewish converts, because of their ancient prejudices against graven images, and with the Gentile Christians on account of their disgust at statues of the gods; nevertheless, it seemed to be impossible, as Lady Eastlake remarks, "that a people who lived in the atmosphere of beautiful and ideal forms could close their minds against them." The first timid signs were shown

in the use of a symbolism analogous to, and frequently borrowed from, the antique forms, or in the wearing of rings with gems incised with some symbol of the new faith. Thus, the lyre of Apollo and the Muses became adopted as significant of praise and thanksgiving to God, and of persuasion to mankind. Orpheus with his lyre was converted into an emblem of Christ and the Gospel, and in the catacombs of Rome to this day are to be seen some of these representations, converted from the purposes of the Orphic mysteries to the secret worship of the first Christians. The anchor of hope, the ship or ark of Noah, the fish, the dove, are among some of the most common symbols employed. The fish was a chosen emblem, with the Greek word ΙΧΘΥΣ, the letters of which formed an acrostic of the sentence *Ιησους, Χριστος, Υιος, Σωτηρ*—"Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour." It alluded also to the waters of baptism, and perhaps to believers, as the fish caught by those disciple-fishermen who, Jesus said, should hereafter be "fishers of men." Jonah and the whale also afforded a favourite allusion to the entombment and resurrection, and is constantly employed in later times. Objects of this kind appear to have satisfied the purposes of the first Christians, till gradually their worship became more open and avowed and their prejudices against the forms of Paganistic art relaxed; so that in the fourth century we find Christians buried in sculptured sarcophagi precisely after the style of the Pagan Romans, except that the subjects of the bas-reliefs were Christian. When the catacombs of Rome were opened in the sixteenth century, many of those sculptures were discovered which are preserved in the Vatican; that of Junius Bassus, a pro-consul, who died in 359, being one of the finest. Of this there is an engraving in the work before us, as representing the first regular cycle of Christian art, which forms the subject of the Introduction. The mural paintings in the catacombs are considered to carry Christian art down to the twelfth century; and at the same time the various mosaic pictures of the basilicas, the bronze doors of churches, the carved book-covers and diptychs in ivory, borrowed from the Roman Consular tablets, the reliquaries and vessels of the Church in metal enamelled, and the beautiful miniature paintings of manuscripts and missals, all became a rich depository of sacred art. These sources are but briefly considered by Lady Eastlake, and necessarily so, as they furnish a field of research far too extensive for the compass of the book which Mrs. Jameson designed. The vast number of sculptured works still remaining in a very perfect state in the ancient churches of the Continent and in this country, and which offer important means of studying the phases of Christian art, have not received much attention either from the late Mrs. Jameson or Lady Eastlake, to whom we are indebted for the completion of the work. This again, however, we may fairly allow to be a branch of the subject which has been amply treated of by other writers, and, had it been at all extensively entered into, would only have encumbered the book. So, also, the subject of painted glass, embroidered vestments, crucifixes, and ecclesiastical utensils, are expressly avoided, in order to devote full consideration to paintings as applied in illustrating the life of Our Lord.

Nothing is more remarkable in reference to the history of Christ, as told in art, than the absence of any authentic portrait of Jesus. A chief section of the Introduction to the work before us is devoted to the portraits of Christ. In this, Lady Eastlake says:—"Legend has, in various forms, supplied the natural craving; but it is hardly necessary to add that all accounts of pictures of Our Lord taken from himself are without historical foundation." The first representations of Christ mentioned were images in gold and silver, placed by the heathen in their houses, as were those of Abraham, Orpheus, Homer, Pythagoras, and St. Paul. The description of a bronze group of Christ and the Woman kneeling, seen by Eusebius, who died in 340, is referred to, but without any faith, however, in its being taken from the life. The famous letter of Publius Lentulus is generally considered to be a fabrication of the third century, and probably of Christian origin; a similar description, found in the writings of St. John of Damascus, in the eighth century, helped to give the type of feature there described to all artists of the time; and since then this has, in more or less modified forms, been accepted as the sacred countenance. The legends of the "Volto Santo" naturally become some of the most interesting in those sacred traditions which have been handed down from age to age, adorned with much that is fanciful and vague, but poetic, and full of a devoted sentiment of religion that can never fail to carry with it the respect and sympathy of our more reasoning and perhaps more materialistic age. The apocryphal story of Christ and Abgarus is still extant, in which it is related how this king sent to Jesus at Jerusalem, entreating him to come to Edessa and cure him. Jesus replies that he cannot come, but will send one of his disciples after his ascension, who will heal him and give life to all. This is a legend of the fourth century; in the eighth century, the picture is first mentioned by John of Damascus, and by the tenth the request is made for the portrait as a means of cure. Abgarus is said then to have sent a painter to portray Christ, but that such was the brilliant glory of the Lord's countenance that the painter was dazzled, and Christ, knowing his thoughts, took his robe, and, pressing it upon his face, left a portrait impressed upon it: this picture was carried to the king, who was cured by looking upon it. Another version, told by the Emperor Constantine Porphyrogenitus, is, that the artist-messenger tried to paint the portrait from a distance, standing in the crowd around Christ; that he was observed, and Jesus, knowing his intention, called for water, and, after washing, wiped his face on a cloth, which was found to have received the image of the sacred countenance, and

* The History of our Lord as exemplified in Works of Art. Commenced by the late Mrs. Jameson, continued and completed by Lady Eastlake. Two vols. London: Longmans.

was given to the messenger, one Annanias. He returns homeward, but, staying to sleep near Hierapolis, hides the treasured cloth in a heap of bricks, and in the night the inhabitants are attracted by seeing a glowing fire within: they search, and find the picture brilliant with light; and not only so, but on one of the bricks was impressed from the cloth another holy portrait. This miraculous brick was long preserved at Hierapolis, and possessed the power of transferring portraits upon any surface it touched. The original cloth was kept at Constantinople, and had the same virtue, copies of it being at St. Sylvester, in Rome, and other places. In the late Prince Consort's collection there is a picture by a Byzantine painter of this holy cloth of King Abgarus, which is amongst those presented to the National Gallery, and another representing the king receiving the portrait. The legend of the Western Church—that of St. Veronica—is from the same source. Christ on the way to Calvary took from one of his disciples a piece of cloth to wipe his face, which was afterwards treasured up by St. Thomas and shown to Abgarus. Veronica, however, is the name given, to suit the legend, to the woman who was healed by touching the hem of Christ's garment. Longing for a portrait of him, she entreated St. Luke, who was a painter, to paint the likeness on a piece of cloth. He failed, and they wept over it and prayed, and Luke painted another, but less like than the first. God, however, heard their prayers, and a voice said to Veronica, "Go home and prepare me a meal, and I will come to you." She did so, and Christ came, and, asking for water, washed, and pressed the cloth to his face, when it received the miraculous portrait. By a later legend, the cloth bears the head of Christ crowned with thorns, and with a suffering look. Several pictures of this, which is known as a "Sudarium," exist, one of which is in the National Gallery; and there are some which represent Christ as a Moor. Thus, as happens with all great personalities, the imagination is left to picture to each mind its own ideal. The heads representing Christ in classic times were rendered comely after the Greek and Roman model; those which followed, as the work of Byzantine painters, had lost all artistic beauty, and took on the painful cast of suffering, which was the intention of an ascetic religious ceremonial. The Italian art of the early Renaissance began with more refinement to express Divine sympathy for humanity in preference to the feeble idea of exhibiting the actual sufferings of Christ. Still, as Lady Eastlake remarks, of the few efforts of the great painters of the fifteenth century to represent Christ, it would seem as if "they shrank from a head in which something better than the pride of the eye and the power of the brain was demanded. The great Florentine giants of the fifteenth century—Botticelli, Ghirlandajo, the Lippi—have hardly left a conception of Christ in his living manhood; nor Bellini, nor Mantegna. Nevertheless, the fifteenth century did not elapse without bequeathing the profoundest conception of the Son of Man which mortal hand has ever executed. Most of our readers will think of that dim ghost of a head still lingering on the walls of an old refectory at Milan, which, like its Divine original, has suffered the contempt and injury of man, yet still defies the world to produce its equal. Leonardo da Vinci's 'Cena' is confessed to have been a culminating point in art; in nothing does it show this more than in surrounding Christ with the highest forms of intelligence, earnestness, beauty, and individuality in male heads, and yet preserving the Divine Master's superiority to all. . . . After this, there are few heads of Christ as living, on which we dwell with that sadness of admiration which is the evidence of their affinity to our higher part." This is admirable criticism, and satisfactory as coming from one who, like her sister critic, confesses such an abundant sympathy with the earlier efforts of painting, when the cloister was the studio, and the Academic was a style unknown. It would have been disheartening indeed if the great spirits of art—an art far more inspiring and grand than that of Phidias, and infinitely more touching to the heart and impressive to the intellect—had failed, with all their enlarged means, to reach the elevated and noble themes of Christianity. But we think art had atoned for her too many "mechanical triumphs with the juicy and facile brush of the Venetian school," which Lady Eastlake accuses her, not unjustly, of exulting in; the Academies may have much to answer for, but we may appeal, after the great deeds of the Cinque-Cento school, to the modern works of Paul de la Roche, of Dyce, Herbert, and Holman Hunt, to show that, while artificiality and formalism have been shunned, a healthy naturalism, combined with feeling for beauty and deep sentiment, has become the characteristic of the most advanced modern painting. We must refer to the work for a most interesting and delightfully appreciative criticism of one of the greatest pictures ever painted—the "Last Supper" of Leonardo da Vinci; but not without giving some taste of the writer's expressive words:—

"We know not whether the head be handsome or picturesque, masculine or feminine in type—whether the eye be liquid, the cheeks ruddy, the hair smooth, or the beard curling, as we know with such painful certainty in other representations. All we feel is that the wave of one intense meaning has passed over the whole countenance, and left its impress alike on every part. Sorrow is the predominant expression—that sorrow which, as we have said in our Introduction, distinguishes the Christian's God, and which binds Him by a sympathy no fabled deity ever claimed with the fallen and suffering race of Adam. His very words have given himself more pain than they have to his hearers, and a pain he cannot expend in protestations as they do, for this and for every other other act of his life came He into the world."

Our limits do not enable us to follow the authors through the

whole story of the events of Christianity and the life and death of Christ, however agreeably this is told in the description of nearly all the important pictures in existence, aided with many excellent drawings by Mr. Poynter and Miss Clara Lane. The portion of the work due to the late Mrs. Jameson, whose writings upon sacred and legendary art are so highly esteemed, is confined to the first volume, and refers chiefly to the earlier typical history of Christ in art. The second volume embraces the more important works of art illustrating the life of Christ, the events surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection, and the subsequent history, ending with the subjects of Christ enthroned, the crowning of the blest, and the Last Judgment: the greater part of this is entirely the production of Lady Eastlake.

We may say of the whole book, that it is a most valuable and interesting contribution to art literature, reliable and complete as a work of reference, and agreeable to read. Some pleasanties, intended to give lightness, are, however, not always in good taste, nor in keeping with the subject; as where it is said, referring to the eighth century, "the cards of art were too intricately shuffled to be clearly sorted out;" and, in another place, where Adam is described as a low Italian, and Eve, "a poor drudge, who has evidently never had a moment's happiness with him, even in Paradise." These, however, are only mentionable as oversights easily corrected, and not at all as detracting from the merits of this most interesting and instructive work.

THE ITALIAN MOVEMENT.*

THE two main ideas influencing the course of the Italian movement, and dividing the statesmen of Italy into opposing, if not hostile, camps, are reflected in the pamphlets of which the titles are placed at the foot of this article. In the three speeches delivered a few weeks ago in the Turin Chamber of Deputies by the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, and by Signor Boncompagni, an independent supporter of the Government, we have a complete, and let us add a very interesting and masterly, statement of the views of the Moderate Party, which, though thoroughly Italian in its feeling, is opposed to any precipitate action for the deliverance of Rome and Venice,—which fears to lose all by entering the field before Italy is fully prepared for the gigantic struggle awaiting her,—which denies the right of any citizen, however illustrious, to take upon himself the prerogative of making peace or war,—and which, remembering the services rendered to Italy in 1859 by the Emperor Napoleon, is desirous of acting in harmony with France, instead of provoking her into an opposition that might be fatal. Mr. Barker's lectures, on the other hand, are the production of a thorough Mazzinian—of one who believes that the comparative independence and unity of Italy have been effected entirely by the party of action, and both were and are thwarted by the unpatriotic and time-serving policy of Piedmontese statesmen. The lectures were delivered at Brighton, and are now printed in the belief that they will derive additional interest "from the recent visit of Garibaldi, and from the remarkable discussion which took place in our House of Commons concerning the character and doctrines of Mazzini, as the friend of a member of the Government." Regarded as a brief summary of the Italian national movement from the early years of Mazzini's life down to the present day, these lectures may be perused with advantage by those who are not so well acquainted with the political history of the last thirty years as newspaper writers are expected to be; but we warn all such readers that they must take Mr. Barker's facts with considerable allowance for the one-sidedness of an extreme partisan. We do not mean to accuse the lecturer of stating what is specifically untrue; but he has certainly given a very incomplete and unfair view of the several forces which, to some extent antagonistic, yet really working towards the same great end, have resulted in the creation of the kingdom of Italy. The immense debt of gratitude which that kingdom owes to the patient sagacity and unflinching will of Cavour is not to be extinguished by a few sentences of thoughtless depreciation; and, indeed, we should have but a poor opinion of Italy if she could ever forget or undervalue the memory of one who died in her service in as literal an acceptance of the phrase as if he had fallen on the field of battle. Mr. Barker is evidently a man of intense feelings, but of narrow intellectual vision. Having lived for a long while in Italy, and been surrounded by men of extreme views, his mind seems to have lost all comprehensiveness. He cannot perceive that, for the creation of a new European Power, surrounded by other Powers adverse or distrustful, statesmen and diplomatists are as necessary as propagandists and heroes. It is no answer to this necessity to fling at those who recognise and provide for it the nickname of "Materialists," which seems to be Mr. Barker's grand resource. Let it be granted that they embody the less poetical, enthusiastic, and fascinating elements of any great national evolution; the fact yet remains that they bear an important part in the collective movement. The history of nations, like the life of individuals, is not all poetry and passion: we must submit in both cases to the harder conditions, the coarser needs, of earth. Mr. Barker's conception of a national uprising is almost melodramatic. He can see nothing but a tumultuous rush of devoted

* Speeches of the Italian Ministers of the Interior and of Justice, Signors Peruzzi and Pisanelli, and of Signor Boncompagni, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, in answer to the Questions of Signor Bargoni, one of the Leaders of the Left. London: Ridgway.

Two Lectures on Italian Unity and the National Movement in Europe. By John Sale Barker. London: Emily Faithfull.

young men, a carrying of barricades, a fluttering of tri-colour flags, a vast tossing of caps of liberty into the air; can hear nothing but the *vivas* and the shouts of battle. Everything else he regards as antagonistic; and if anyone seek to bring order out of chaos, or counsel prudence in the face of imminent perils, he is at once set down as a traitor. The old accusations against Charles Albert are repeated in these lectures, and it is plainly hinted that, but for the interposition of Piedmont in 1849, the Austrians would have been driven out of Italy; as though, because they were taken by surprise at the first outbreak, and gave way at all points but Mantua and Verona (two of the most important points, however), they would have been unable to recover their ground after an interval of preparation; as if the army which eventually discomfited the well-trained and well-appointed troops of Piedmont would have been powerless before raw and undisciplined levies, courageous and self-devoted, indeed, to the last degree, but unprovided with means for successfully coping with the organized legions of a first-class military Power. In a similar spirit, Mr. Barker applauds the mad expedition which terminated in the miserable encounter of Aspromonte, and blames Cavour and other Italian Ministers for not at once defying Austria and France. It is the mistake of all such writers to over-estimate the power of popular risings against military predominance. The very facts which Mr. Barker himself records show how disastrous those risings have been in the case of Italy, except when they have had the support of Piedmont. We are not forgetful of the immense help given to the Italian cause by the revolutionary movements of 1859-60, headed by Garibaldi, and kindled by the enthusiasm of those who had drunk their political inspiration from Mazzini's grand idea of unity; but the popular element *alone* has always failed. And even the combination of that element with the astute diplomacy of Cavour would have equally failed, had not the vast military resources of France been brought to bear against the formidable masses of Austria in the first instance, and had not Louis Napoleon, after the conclusion of the war, shut the door against Austria's return by proclaiming the great doctrine of non-intervention. However much the Italian policy of Louis Napoleon may have been mingled with selfish considerations, and whatever may be said against the various suggestions for the settlement of Italy which he made after the peace of Villafranca, it should, at least, be recollected to his credit—though Mr. Barker studiously keeps the fact out of sight—that he never endeavoured to force his own ideas on the Italians, but invariably relinquished his recommendations before the nation's clearly-expressed will to the contrary. The diplomacy of Italian statesmen had unquestionably a large share in producing that result; for it may be gravely doubted whether the French ruler would have been equally placable with a revolutionary triumvirate which should have bearded and insulted him. To one who thinks, as Mr. Barker does, that a force of amateur soldiers, hastily raised, ill armed, and possessing no regular organisation, could safely defy Austria and France at once, with the rest of Europe either sympathising with the stronger side, or coldly indifferent, it may seem a very fine thing to disregard the commonest rules of prudence, and to rush forward blindly against all odds; but cooler heads, recollecting the vain efforts of earlier years, and seeing the hopelessness of struggles such as that of the Poles against Russia, or of the Danes against Germany, will not be slow to attribute the regeneration of Italy to a wise admixture of the calm, calculating, unromantic genius of state-craft with the more ardent temperament of popular beliefs and aspirations.

The speeches of Signors Peruzzi, Pisanelli, and Boncompagni, are an excellent antidote to the kind of stuff with which English Mazzinians sometimes seek to cram our rather ill-informed countrymen. These addresses, which were but slightly reported at the time in the English newspapers, have now been published *in extenso*, and throw a very important and interesting light on the present state of parties in Italy. Shortly after the visit of Garibaldi to England, the party of action, speaking in the Chamber through its mouthpiece, Signor Bargoni, one of the members of "the Left," or republican section, renewed its attacks on the Government, accusing the Ministers of inertness, of subserviency to France and Austria, of indifference to the national progress, and of jealousy of the honours paid to Garibaldi in this country. The reply of Signor Peruzzi, as reported in the pamphlet issued by Mr. Ridgway, is an admirable specimen of parliamentary argument and eloquence. Knowledge, judgment, address, tempered enthusiasm, high principle, and sound sense, combine to render this speech of the Italian Minister of Justice interesting, not only to those who are desirous of understanding every phase of the Italian question, but to all who sympathise with the development of the parliamentary system abroad. We could not readily find, even in our own House of Commons, a better specimen of what we may call the chivalry of debate; and the same may be said, in their relative degree, of the shorter speeches of Signors Pisanelli and Boncompagni. Taken altogether, they show that the Italian Government and Moderate Party have no jealousy towards Garibaldi, nor any desire to keep alive painful reminiscences; that, on the contrary, they calculate on his co-operation when the day shall have arrived for marching against the common enemy; but that a regularly constituted Government, recognised by Europe, and therefore bound up with the European system, cannot permit a private individual, or a set of private individuals, to commit the country, by some rash act, to a war for which it is not yet prepared. This is certainly not asking too much, and is nothing more than what we concede willingly to our own rulers. If the Italian Government will see that its agents

in the provinces do not commit acts of oppression under the pretext of putting down disturbances, and if the maintenance of the King's legitimate rule be kept in strict harmony with popular rights of meeting and discussion, we are sure that the English people, with their hereditary love of order, will support the Italian Moderates in the prosecution of an arduous but wise policy. The day of renewed struggle, and we trust of renewed triumph, is coming for Italy; and, according to Signor Peruzzi, this is the national force which is prepared to meet the Austrian:—

"When General Garibaldi came into this Chamber, he said that it was right to 'arm, arm, arm,' but that, as to the policy of the Government, he left that to the President of the Council and to the Chamber. Well, I do not think it was Garibaldi or any of his friends who said that it was necessary to have 500,000 men, and proposed a law for arming the mobilized National Guard at a cost of thirty millions to the State. We are not aware of not having satisfied the aspirations of the nation, although the order of the day of Garibaldi was not then passed. In fact, the National Guard already musters 800,000 muskets, and in a short time will have 1,137,040, while 1,320,155 men are enrolled. I do not believe there is any other nation which has more than a million of National Guards. And I do not understand why General Garibaldi, who showed such enthusiasm for the 150,000 Volunteers of England, is not equally enthusiastic about the million of National Guards which we have fortunately been able to arm."

"We have, gentlemen, 380,000 soldiers, of which 300,000 are doing service, and 80,000 can be called out at any moment. And those 220 battalions of mobilized National Guards whom General Garibaldi wished for, and, to attain that object, brought in a bill which was passed with some modification, are for the most part ready, and, if they should be wanted, would be able, at least for the most part, to render those services the country expects from them."

Weighty facts, these—facts to be gravely pondered at Vienna, and to be taken into future calculations at Paris.

THE DEAN'S ENGLISH.*

WORKS on the proper mode of writing English are generally very unsatisfactory performances; for to the inherent difficulties of the subject the authors mostly contrive to add an insufferable degree of pedantry, petty captiousness, and irritability of temper, and very frequently a proneness to error equal to that which they testily condemn in others. It seems almost impossible to compose a book of this description in a philosophical, dignified, and catholic spirit. Cobbett, in his well known Grammar, did some service in the cause of good English; but he turned literary criticism into a method of political attack, and displeased many, even of those who in the main agreed with him, by the arrogance of his tone. Dean Trench's books on the mother tongue are full of knowledge and thought, but are wanting in breadth; and Dean Alford shows nothing more conclusively than that he is not in all respects equal to the task he has undertaken. His discourtesy to Mr. Moon, who had used the freedom of making a few remarks on the Dean's criticisms, has deservedly subjected him to much severer punishment than he might otherwise have received; and in the little volume of which a second edition has just been issued, Mr. Moon succeeds in reducing his ill-mannered antagonist to rather small dimensions. Yet we cannot say that we regard Mr. Moon's work as satisfactory. The same fragmentary character which we formerly observed in Dean Alford's treatise we observe in his; like most verbal critics, he is sometimes, we think, unnecessarily exacting in his demands; and his remarks on the Dean's errors of style have too much the character of a personal wrangle to be regarded as a lasting contribution to the philosophy of criticism. Still, the volume is worth reading. It points out some serious errors of style; it diminishes the pretensions of a censor who, though himself rendering good service to the purity of our tongue, is certainly not entitled to be so loftily severe on others; and it has the relish and zest of a sharp passage of arms. We should add that, since the original publication of the Dean's remarks in *Good Words*, Dr. Alford has in a manner explained away his apparent discourtesies by saying that they were meant for some hypothetical person—a rather lame excuse, to which Mr. Moon very fairly responds by saying that any remarks of a severe character occurring in his own book must be understood "as intended for some hypothetical dean." It is very regrettable that literary critics cannot discuss an abstract question without calling each other names; and, inasmuch as the Dean has, in the reprint of his original essays, withdrawn his acerbities, we should have been better satisfied if Mr. Moon had omitted certain passages from the work before us. But the fault lies chiefly with the aggressor; and it is certainly not he who has the right to complain.

We could not, without retracing the mazes of a personal dispute (which is never a very edifying task), enter into anything like an elaborate examination of Mr. Moon's book; but our readers may be amused at one or two specimens of the Dean's faulty composition. Dr. Alford had said, "A man does not lose his mother now in the papers;" on which Mr. Moon remarks:—

"I have read figurative language which spoke of lawyers being lost in their papers, and students being buried in their books; but I never read of a man losing his mother in the papers: therefore I do not

* The Dean's English: a Criticism on the Dean of Canterbury's *Essays on the Queen's English*. By G. Washington Moon, Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Second edition. London: Hatchard & Co.

quite see what the adverb 'now' has to do in the sentence. Ah! stop a moment. You did not mean to speak of a man losing his mother in the papers. I perceive by the context that what you intended to say was something of this sort: According to the papers, a man does not now lose his mother; but that is a very different thing. How these little prepositions 'from' and 'in' do perplex you! or rather, how greatly your misuse of them perplexes your readers.

"With the adverbs also you are equally at fault. You say, 'In all abstract cases where we merely speak of numbers, the verb is better singular.' Here the placing of the adverb 'merely' makes it a limitation of the following word 'speak.' And the question might naturally enough be asked, But what if we write of numbers? The adverb being intended to qualify the word 'numbers,' should have been placed immediately after it. The sentence would then have read, 'In all abstract cases where we speak of numbers merely, the verb is better singular.' So also in the sentence, 'I only bring forward some things,' the adverb 'only' is similarly misplaced; for in the following sentence the words 'Plenty more might be said,' show that the 'only' refers to the 'some things,' and not to the fact of your bringing them forward. The sentence should therefore have been, 'I bring forward some things only. Plenty more might be said.' Again, you say, 'Still, though too many commas are bad, too few are not without inconvenience also.' Here the adverb 'also,' by its position, applies to 'inconvenience.' And the sentence signifies that too few commas are not without inconvenience as well as being bad. Doubtless, what you intended was, 'Still, though too many commas are bad, too few also are not without inconvenience.'"

Here is another bit of the Dean's bad composition, extracted and exhibited by Mr. Moon:—

"Further on, I find you speaking of 'that fertile source of mistakes among our clergy, the mispronunciation of Scripture proper names.' It is not the 'mispronunciation of Scripture proper names' which is the source of mistakes; the mispronunciation of Scripture proper names constitutes the mistakes themselves of which you are speaking. And a thing cannot at the same time be a source, and that which flows from it. It appears that what you intended to speak of was 'that fertile source of mistakes among our clergy, their ignorance of Scripture proper names, the mispronunciation of which is quite inexcusable.'"

A writer in the current number of the *Edinburgh Review* censures Mr. Moon for hypercritically objecting to sentences the meaning of which is perfectly clear, though it is possible, having regard to the mere construction, to interpret them in a sense ludicrously false. We think that Mr. Moon does occasionally exhibit an excessive particularity; but many of his criticisms on Dr. Alford are, as the reviewer himself admits, thoroughly deserved. Because certain ambiguities have become recognised forms of speech, and are universally understood in the correct sense, a writer is not entitled to indulge in a lax mode of expression, which a little trouble would have rendered unimpeachable, without any sacrifice of ease, grace, or naturalness. The reviewer quotes or imagines two sentences to which no reasonable objection could be made, though the construction is assuredly not free from ambiguity:—"Jack was very respectful to Tom, and always took off his hat when he met him. Jack was very rude to Tom, and always knocked off his hat when he met him." Now, as a mere matter of syntax, it might be doubtful whether Jack did not show his respect to Tom by taking off Tom's hat, and his rudeness by knocking off his own; but the fault is hardly a fault of construction—it is a fault inherent in the language itself, which has not provided for a distinction of personal pronouns. The sentences in question are clearly defective; but they could only be amended by an excessive verbosity and tautology, which would be much more objectionable; and, at any rate, they are no justification of those errors of composition which might easily be amended, and which spring from the writer's own indolence or carelessness. The confusion of personal pronouns, however, is a subject worthy of comment. It is incidentally alluded to by a writer in the last number of the *Quarterly Review*, in an article on the report of the Public School Commissioners; and a ludicrous example is given, from the evidence of a Somersetshire witness in a case of manslaughter, though, notwithstanding the jumble, the sense is clear enough. The fatal affray was thus described by the peasant:—"He'd a stick, and he'd a stick, and he licked he, and he licked he; and if he'd a licked he as hard as he licked he, he'd a killed he, and not he he." Now, supposing the witness not to know the name of either combatant, one does not see how he could have expressed himself more clearly, and he would have a right to charge the defect on the language. Like everything else in the world, human speech is very imperfect, and we must sometimes take it with all its blemishes, because we can do no better. For instance, there is a certain form of expression which involves a downright impossibility, but which nevertheless is universally accepted. We cannot explain what we mean more pertinently than by referring to the phrase commonly seen painted on dead walls and palings:—"Stick no bills." Here what is intended is a prohibition; but it really takes the form of an injunction, and of an injunction to do an impossibility. We are not told to refrain from sticking something, or anything—we are commanded to stick something, and the something we are to stick is "no bills"! We are to stick on the wall or paling something which has no existence. Let us try to imagine the process. We must first take up the nonentity in one hand, and with the other apply paste to its non-existent back; we are then to hoist it on a pole, and flatten it against a wall. Of course, the only correct expression would be, "Do not stick bills;" yet no one would seriously recommend the change. (The reader will

observe that we have here unconsciously fallen into the same mode of speech. "No one would recommend!") The received expression is more succinct, and it has now the sanction of time. In like manner we say, "He was so vexed that he ate no dinner," and a hundred other phrases of the same character. But they are radically bad, and go far to excuse the uneducated for so frequently using the double negative. The unlettered man knows that he wants to state the negation of something, and not the affirmation, and he obscurely perceives that a species of affirmation of the very thing he wants to deny is put into his mouth by such a sentence as "He ate no dinner;" so he whips in another negative, and really makes the phrase more intelligible to himself, and to those of his own class who hear him.

Some comparatively modern modes of expression, though not capable of defence, have already struck their roots so far that it is almost impossible to drag them up. The writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, when condemning the recent use of the word "supplement" as a verb, says:—"So infectious has it become that it has, once or twice, crept, notwithstanding our utmost vigilance, into these pages." Ludicrously enough, one of the faults pointed out in this article is committed in another article in the very same number. The reviewer of Dr. Alford objects (and we think very justly objects) to such French-English as—"Born in 1825, our hero went to Eton in 1837." But in the article on Edward Livingston we read—"Born on the 26th of May, 1764, he was in his thirteenth year on the day of the Declaration of Independence."

Let us conclude with a hope that Dean Alford and Mr. Moon have by this time made up their quarrel, and that henceforth they will unite their forces for the defence of "The Queen's English."

THE INVASION OF DENMARK.*

WITH the extension of the "Special Correspondent" system, originating, or, at any rate, first rising into notice, at the period of the Crimean war, a very peculiar species of works of travel has come into vogue. Whenever a war breaks out anywhere—and for the last ten years we have rarely been without one of considerable importance raging in some quarter or other—several gentlemen with rapid pens and faculties of quick observation and lively portraiture are at once sent off to the scene of operations, to "report" the fighting for the London daily newspapers. These writers do not confine themselves to the marching of armies, the conflicts of opposing troops, the bombardment of towns, and the other incidents of a state of war: they relate all this, and often with wonderful accuracy, as well as vividness; but they are likewise sent with a view to being amusing and readable, and they produce, from day to day, sketches of scenery, of towns, of local manners, and of national characteristics, remarks on climate, political disquisitions, and historical reminiscences, such as forty years ago would only have made their appearance in a high-priced quarto. It is not too much to say that the special correspondents of the *Times* and other daily papers have of late years added largely to the popular knowledge of the Crimea, of the border lands between Turkey and Russia, of India, of Italy, of America, and of Poland; and now that out-of-the-way corner of Europe, the peninsula of Denmark, with its attendant islands, is being similarly introduced to the comfortable Englishman who receives every morning at his breakfast-table the very impress of the moving world. It is a curious custom, this modern one of publishing books of travels in daily papers, and reproducing them in the more regular form after the first novelty has worn off; yet it has certainly done a good deal towards extending the ordinary reader's acquaintance with foreign countries. In these times, it is as common for the newspaper correspondent to republish his contributions to the journal which sent him out as for the quarterly reviewer or magazine-writer to make up a volume of his collected articles. Only the other day we noticed Mr. Dicey's reprint of his Danish letters to the *Daily Telegraph*; and here we have two volumes by the Danish correspondent of the *Times*, Signor Gallenga,—or, considering the admirable English that he writes, we ought perhaps rather to say Mr. Gallenga. Much that we remarked about Mr. Dicey's book we might also record of the one before us; yet it is lively, amusing, and full of matter. "Lively" is rather a strange term to apply to a work describing so hot and deadly a contest as that between the Danes and Germans; but Signor Gallenga is a man of the world, who takes things as he finds them, paints what he sees with a good deal of picturesque effect, and has a rattling, self-possessed manner that carries the reader along with him. Shortly after arriving at Kiel, he found that the Prince of Augustenburg was staying at the same hotel where he was putting up. Another of the guests was "Mr. O——, the author, the great traveller, the aspiring statesman, the semi-official diplomatist," who represented the *Morning Post*, and who, having known the Prince for some time, offered to introduce Signor Gallenga to him; but this was rather a difficult thing to accomplish. "You see," said Mr. O——, "every step and word of the Prince is jealously watched; the most sinister construction is put on his simplest acts. He is, just at this moment, anxious above all things to give no umbrage to the great German Powers. You are an Italian—you understand—a member of the Turin Parliament; and, were it known that his Highness gave you an audience—funny enough!—it would soon be found out that you are here on some plot hatching against

* The Invasion of Denmark in 1864. By A. Gallenga, Special Correspondent of the *Times* at the Head-quarters of the Danish Army. Two vols. London: Bentley.

Austria between the Prince and the Government of King Victor Emanuel." An "accidental meeting," however, was provided for, and Signor Gallenga saw the great man, whom he found above six feet high, well-built, with a thoroughly Scandinavian face, fine aquiline features, light-coloured eyebrows, transparent, sky-blue eyes, like northern ice, a square, massive chin, and a sedate, almost heavy, expression and manner, which make him look upwards of forty, though he is only thirty-four. His bearing, nevertheless, is kingly, and he seemed to Signor Gallenga to possess more than average ability, though wanting in dash. "He is a man," adds our author, "to profit by a popular movement; not to initiate or lead it." We may remark, by the way, that Signor Gallenga loses no opportunity of contrasting the Danes with the Germans, to the disadvantage of the latter, which is natural enough in an Italian, who has not the same reason for disliking the Scandinavian as he has for abhorring the Teuton. The Danish peasantry he thought very like the English, and truly enough remarks that both belong to the same race. The upper ranks have the genuine Norman look, being "distinguished by length of face, fine-chiselled features, the bearing of command, the sharp, ringing voice, the slender but elegant and well-proportioned figures, which may be traced among the descendants of Norman nobles, whether you seek them in these three Northern kingdoms, or in the British isles, or in Normandy, or among the Acadians of North America, or even among some of the oldest baronial houses in Naples." The *Times* correspondent, of course, went about into all circles, and gathered the opinions of the people as best he could. He admits that the Holsteiners were thoroughly German in their leanings, and that even a portion of the Schleswigers were vehemently anti-Danish; but he has no sympathy with the movement against the rule of the King. He says that the German patriots expressed surprise that he, an Italian and an old conspirator on the ground of nationality, should fail to go heart and soul with them; but then, he adds, the Italians went to work in a very different way. They did not begin by picking a quarrel with Switzerland for the nationality of Ticino; they did not take their stand on exploded feudal rights; they simply claimed Italy for the Italians, "kicked out half-a-dozen worthless princes," and placed themselves under a dynasty which represented their aspirations, and understood the spirit of the times. The Holsteiners do not seem to have appreciated or relished these arguments; so they and the Italian stranger did not get on very well together in the matter of politics.

Though not pleasurably struck with the Danish towns or the Danish country, though naturally much discomforted by the bleak Northern climate, and not by any means tempted by the national dishes of which he was obliged to eat, Signor Gallenga speaks with warm admiration of the Danes themselves—their patient courage, their simple piety, their pure lives, their liberal ideas, their cultivated intelligence, and their courtesy. He says that the more he lives among them, the more he is inclined to award them the palm of being, among all the people on earth, the one which has succeeded in combining "the simplicity of patriarchal morals with the most thorough refinement of civilized manners." He gives a charming description of farmhouse life among them; the considerate, self-restrained conduct of the soldiery he contrasts with the ruffianism of the Prussians; and the vice of drunkenness, which is generally rampant among Northern races, he avers is here almost unknown. Agricultural life in many English districts, we are told, is backward when compared with the "solid comforts of this sober and patient Northern people;" and the universal diffusion of education makes them delightful companions. Even among the farmers and their wives and children, a knowledge of English, French, and German, is common, in addition to their own tongue. Here is a pleasing sketch:—

"The style of building, even of the meanest peasant dwellings, is a perfect marvel to the beholder. The people's love for a thatch, as the best shelter in their opinion, both for winter and summer, their preference for high-slanting roofs, quaint gables, vanes and chimney stacks, do not detract from the solidity of the masonry, from the neatness and elegance of the design of even the most unpretending abode. There is no such thing as a hut or hovel in the whole land, not an ill-fitting or shattered door, not one broken pane of glass in the small, low casements. Tidiness and comfort, most fastidious cleanliness in barn, stable, and dairy, flower-pots behind the window, and bird-cages hanging from the ceiling, all that can go towards making a mere house a home, was contrived here. The subduing influence of a severe climate seems to have a softening effect on man and beast. There is hardly a horse here but seems to be born thoroughly broken; you can scarcely fall in with a snarling dog, hardly with one that will bark even in fun. There is a friendliness, a good-nature, a thorough sterling honesty, which bind all living creatures, and render them fair and considerate towards each other, happy and well-pleased with each other. It is not a little to be said in favour of Denmark, that war can be waged here without marauders, camp followers, or other bad characters; without the price of a single article being enhanced by the sudden and extensive demand. The closer I come into contact with it, the more intimate I become with it, the stronger grows my sympathy with this plain and unpretending, but real and well-grounded Danish civilization. You meet hardly a man here but seems to be contented, and deserving to be so, and desirous, as far as in him lies, to contribute to yours and everybody's contentment."

The second volume is almost entirely confined to a narrative of the progress of the war, into which it would be superfluous for us to enter; but there is one chapter, giving a capital account of Copenhagen and the neighbourhood, which brings up before our eyes in a very graphic manner the cold, dull, Northern town, and the fine-natured, simple-hearted people who inhabit it.

PETERSBURG AND WARSAW.*

MR. O'BRIEN must have a poor opinion of the shrewdness of the English public if he thinks that this volume will have the slightest effect in altering its view of the relation which the Poles bear to their tyrants, and their tyrants to them. Yet that is the object with which he has written it. He would have his readers believe that the late insurrection was the work of foreign conspirators, who forced it upon the people by wholesale assassination of all who refused to take part in it. On the other hand, he describes the Russian authorities as men acting with the most benevolent intentions, and who have throughout signalized their government of the Poles and their suppression of the insurrection by acts of mercy, and even of generosity. No barbarities have been practised, no women have been scourged; prisoners have been well clothed and fed, and every indulgence, consistent with imprisonment, has been allowed them. Deserted by the rest of Europe, Poland has still one source of comfort, nay, of national life, if she chooses to avail herself of it—the good intentions of the Czar. She has only to cultivate a generous confidence in her master, and she will have little or nothing left to wish for.

But when we come to examine the evidence on which Mr. O'Brien bases his faith in the Russian Government and vouches for the mercy of its generals, we find that it amounts to little more than the testimony of the parties incriminated. Mr. O'Brien takes from the lips of princes and officers whatever they please to tell him of their own acts and the acts of the insurgents, and writes it down for gospel. He asks Prince Wittgenstein, Governor of Wlodlawek, for a sketch of his experience of the insurrection, and especially of the hanging gendarmerie, and a letter, in which the Prince relates his experience, forms the second chapter of Mr. O'Brien's work. At page 36 we find him kindly received by General Mouravieff, "whom he informs that he has come determined to believe nothing that he does not see with his own eyes." The next day, his friend Colonel Lebedeff takes him over the prisons of Wilna, and, of course, they are unexceptionable. He dines with Mouravieff, and finds that he has one of the gentlest of hearts. The wily old general, knowing that Mr. O'Brien is going to write a book, releases some boys at his request—an easy way of manufacturing evidence to character. He gives our author permission to be present at the proceedings of the military court, and it is very hard if they cannot, for that special occasion, be conducted with moderation and justice. Mr. O'Brien, again, has the good fortune to be present at a deputation of twenty-five Polish farmers, each representing a parish, who come to read an address of thanks to the Emperor for having given them General Mouravieff for a governor, "who, by his energy, had delivered them from the imposts and cruelties of the insurgents." The morning after Mr. O'Brien arrives at Warsaw, he receives a visit from Colonel Annenkoff, aide-de-camp to the Emperor, who brings a message from the Count de Berg to say that the Count will be glad to see him at the palace in the afternoon. Mr. O'Brien finds the Count to be a man of such well-disciplined mind, so religious, and in all respects so amiable, that he "inwardly thanks Heaven that it was he, and not some violent and headstrong man, that had been sent to govern unhappy Poland." We next find our author *tête-à-tête* with the Grand Duke Constantine, who "speaks English fluently and with a certain elegance, and has the staid and quiet manner of a high-bred gentleman." The Grand Duke, "with remarkable lucidity and a certain eloquence," sketches the most remarkable events in the history of Poland from the time of its annexation to Russia down to his own appointment as viceroy. He explains with what good intentions he came to Warsaw, and how rudely these were interrupted by the attempt to assassinate him. While the Grand Duke is proceeding with this discourse, this valet brings in the clothes which he wore on the occasion, with the assassin's revolver and dagger; and then the Grand Duke perorates as follows:—

"Here are the clothes which I wore on that night, and here is the revolver with which the assassin fired, and here is a dagger with which he was armed."

While Mr. O'Brien is "looking with horror at the objects before him," the Grand Duchess enters the room. She is "one of the most beautiful women in Europe,"—tall, lithe, and graceful; eyes "large, dark, and luminous;" with an expression of settled melancholy in the lines of the mouth. She, too, recurs to the subject of the attempted assassination, very much in the strain of a heroine at the Victoria Theatre; and when she turns her head away, Mr. O'Brien perceives that she is weeping. In the evening he is present at a *soirée* given by the Grand Duchess, who reminds him of his promise to call upon her next morning. He finds her at luncheon, and remembers "few things more touching than the love which unites all the members of this family together—a love evidently made all the deeper and the more binding by the terrible scenes amidst which, for many a weary month, they had been living." Once more he hears the story of the assassination from her lips; and it is impossible to read his book without seeing how much his mind has been disposed to the Russian view of the Polish question by these interviews. We mean no disrespect to Mr. O'Brien when we say that, as evidence of the true state of things in Poland, his account is perfectly worthless.

The passages which may be read with confidence are those which give us a glimpse of the interior of the Russian prisons and their occupants. Brief as it is, it completely upsets Mr. O'Brien's

* Petersburg and Warsaw: Scenes witnessed during a Residence in Poland and Russia in 1863-4. By Augustin P. O'Brien. London: Bentley.

theory that the insurrection was not spontaneous, but the work of foreign revolutionists. In these prisons he found boys from fifteen to eighteen years of age; women and girls who in one way or another had taken part in the movement; and aged priests who had abetted it. "All the female prisoners in the Convent of the Missionaries," he writes, "were accused of being members of a committee for nursing the sick and wounded insurgents, of holding seditious meetings in their houses, and of distributing the proclamations of the National Government." It is not foreign influence which will constrain women unwillingly to undertake such duties. With what determination even girls stood by the national cause, we may learn from the following instance:—

"In solitary confinement, in one of the cells, I found a girl of between nineteen and twenty. She was accused of having secretly received insurgents in her house, where the oath of fidelity to the national cause was administered to them by a Catholic priest. The priest and some of the men to whom he had administered the oath were arrested, and all admitted the truth of the accusation made against them. But the girl, when confronted with them, denied that they had ever been to her house, or that she had ever seen them before in her life, and refused to answer any of the questions addressed to her by the Court. It was evidently from a determination not to incriminate others that she persisted in her denial. She had been three weeks in solitary confinement; she had no books to read, no companions to talk to, nothing to divert her mind from her own sad thoughts. She had no other fare than the rough prison diet, she saw no other faces than those of her gaolers, and was addressed by no other human voices than those of her judges. Yet her determination to give no information as to the part she had taken in the insurrection seemed as determined as ever."

In a room which had formerly been the refectory of the convent, Mr. O'Brien found upwards of thirty ladies, aged from seventeen to forty. "Amongst the younger, some were very pretty, delicate-looking girls; but even the prettiest and most delicate amongst them, when first spoken to, assumed a defiant and rather fierce expression, which contrasted strangely with the soft outlines and gentle voice of youth. Their beauty, however, was not disfigured; it was merely changed by the expression. They looked like young falcons that had just been caged, with eyes as proud and courage as undaunted." We might cite other instances of the testimony which Mr. O'Brien bears against his own theory; but these are sufficient for our purpose. That he writes as a zealous advocate of the Russian Government, is clear from the first page to the last.

COFFEE AND CHICORY.*

THERE are probably very few, among the multitudes who are accustomed in their ordinary life to the consumption of such common articles of food as bread, butter, cheese, tea, and coffee, who ever give themselves a thought as to the history of their mode of production. Books written with the object of explaining these little-known matters are therefore generally interesting and agreeable. Mr. Simmonds's little work on the "culture, chemical composition, consumption," &c., of coffee and chicory is—to quote the words of the writer—"a practical essay on the culture and preparation of coffee for market in the various producing countries of the world, brought down to the present time." It likewise contains "simple tests for detecting adulteration," and includes "practical hints for the producer and consumer." Several illustrations accompany the work, exhibiting views of various coffee plantations and estates in different parts of the world, and of the exterior and interior of some of their manufactories, together with representations of coffee and chicory in their various states of growth and adulteration, as seen under the microscope. Besides being interesting to the general reader, Mr. Simmonds's treatise is likely to be useful in a commercial point of view to the cultivator and vendor of coffee and chicory. A book of the kind, dealing with the matter in hand in a succinct and popular form, has hitherto been wanting, our author's former work on "The Commercial Products of the Vegetable Kingdom" being, to use his own words, "too expensive and too diffuse for ordinary reference."

According to some, the word "coffee," which was the generic name given to the plant by Linnæus, is derived from a province so called in the kingdom of Narea, Africa, where the shrub grows in great abundance. Others, however, deduce the origin of the word from the old Arabic name for wine, *kāhwāh*. Coffee was first introduced into Arabia from Abyssinia (where it originally grew, both in its wild and cultivated state) about the year 1450, according to Mr. Lane, who mentions the fact in the notes to his translation of the "Arabian Nights." All the European names for coffee are derived, as Mr. Crawford informs us, in his "History of Coffee" in the "Statistical Society's Journal," from the same source, viz., the old Arabic word for wine, "which is composed," says Mr. Simmonds, "of a very guttural *k* (unpronounceable by Europeans, except by an awkward effort), of the labial *w*, and of two short vowels, *ā*, with an aspirate at the end of each syllable. The Turks have changed the labial *w* into *v*, and the European nations, who took the word directly from them, have corrupted the word by converting the labial *v* into the labial *f*, by substituting an ordinary *k* or hard *c* for the Arabic guttural, by omitting both the aspirates, and by converting the last short *ā* into *e*, or, as with ourselves (always the greatest corruptors of orthography), changing

both the vowels." Coffee was certainly known in England before either chocolate or tea. It is said to have been first brought into this country about the year 1652, by a Turkey merchant of London named Edwards, whose Greek servant made the first dish of coffee ever drunk in England. This caused several coffee-houses to be opened shortly afterwards, both in the metropolis and various other towns throughout the country. These were visited periodically by the excise officers, and a duty of 4d. per gallon was imposed until 1689. Coffee does not appear to have been known in France before 1658, when it was introduced at Marseilles by some merchants of that city, and Thévenot regaled his guests with coffee after dinner, on his return from his travels in the East about the same year. There are at present, in London alone, above 1,500 coffee-houses, properly so called, in addition to confectioners' shops and other places, where this beverage is sold. A very great and material difference will be found to exist as to the plantation and culture of the coffee-shrub in the eastern and western hemispheres, inasmuch, that while, in the former, shade is held to be desirable, if not absolutely necessary, in the latter it is considered positively injurious.

In that division of his work which relates to chicory, Mr. Simmonds says that, on its first introduction into England about the year 1822, a nominal duty of twenty per cent. was levied on it, which led to its cultivation in different parts of the country; but it was so little known that the farmers required the rent to be paid in advance for this use of their land. It is now the most universal substitute for coffee in the chief continental countries, Denmark and the Duchies consuming 3,000,000 lbs. annually. In Germany, ground chicory is made into cakes, and thus sold. This little work of Mr. Simmonds will be found practically useful as well as entertaining, and we hope, with its author, that it will turn out to be "the pioneer of other hand-books on the great staples of commerce."

LECTURES ON THE PRAYER BOOK.*

WHETHER it be owing to natural wickedness or to previous ignorance in the reader, which ordinary teaching is incompetent to remove, it is a fact that lectures on religious topics are not, to the multitude, the most attractive kind of reading. Obscurity of style in the author, and want of that power of clear, connected explanation which the French so happily possess, will often make the reader throw down a religious book as hopeless, which, had the writer taken a little more pains, would have been both instructive and interesting. The assumption, also, that the ordinary historical facts of the subject are generally known when they are not, is another cause which contributes to produce and perpetuate this distaste. Readers are in fact ignorant, and do not understand their lecturers; and lecturers will not descend, and meet their ignorance in order really to remove it. It would be too much to say that Mr. Massingberd has succeeded in producing a set of lectures on the Prayer Book which are free from the objections referred to in the above remarks. His work is too small, and his subject too large, for so great success. Many matters are passed over which might with advantage have been included, and others are but too slightly treated. He has, however, certainly succeeded in condensing into a small space, and presenting in a clear and readable form, a large amount of useful information on the Liturgy, its history and its customs, and on matters of mere verbal explanation. Mr. Massingberd writes like one who is in earnest at his work; he rarely wanders from his subject to indulge in platitudes, as is too commonly the practice with divines; and, though he writes from a High Church point of view, and with a bias in which we cannot follow him, an allowance can be made for this peculiarity, while yet instruction may be drawn from his remarks. The book, of course, is intended, not for the learned, but for those only in the Church who are yet "babes in Christ."

Mr. Massingberd is an enthusiastic advocate for turning to the East in repeating the creed. He insists, however, that this is not a peculiarly Romish practice. In the Roman Catholic Church, the altar is the great centre of attraction, and to it, therefore, the worshippers turn. The Protestant, in Mr. Massingberd's opinion, turns, not to the altar, but to the East, as being typical of the "Bright Morning Star"—"the Sun of Righteousness arisen with healing on his wings." "This practice," he says, "is to be taken rather as a protest against that of the Church of Rome. Roman Catholics are much less particular than we are about placing their churches to the East. St. Peter's at Rome stands due west. And why? Because the altar is there the centre of all adoration, and stands under the dome." Speaking of the Calendar, he directs attention to the fact, that St. Crispin's day (25th October) was never a feast in the Roman Calendar, but became one in that of the Church of England, in consequence of a demand of Henry V. from the Archbishop of Canterbury, to have it so observed in commemoration of the battle of Agincourt. He thence points out a mistake into which Shakespeare has fallen, in making Westmoreland say to the King before that battle, "those men of England who do no work to-day."

A matter worth noting, in which ladies will be interested, is the connection between the wedding ring and the bride's fourth finger. "According to the old service-books," says Mr. Massingberd, "the practice was for the man to place the ring first on the tip of the thumb, reckoned as the first finger, saying, 'In the name of the

* Coffee and Chicory: their Culture, Chemical Composition, Preparation for Market, and Consumption. By P. L. Simmonds, author of "The Commercial Products of the Vegetable Kingdom," &c. London: E. & F. N. Spon.

* Lectures on the Prayer Book. By F. C. Massingberd, M.A., Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral, and Lecturer in Divinity. London: Rivingtons.

Father ;' then on the second finger, saying, 'and of the Son ;' then on that of the third finger, saying, 'and of the Holy Ghost ;' and so finally on the fourth with the word 'Amen ;' and so it remained on the fourth, where it does and will remain on all properly-married ladies ; and thus the custom is accounted for. One other point only shall we notice. It is known that the prayer for Parliament was first introduced in the reign of Charles II., and that great exception was then taken, as it was afterwards in that of George the Fourth, to the expression "religious and gracious King" being applied to a person of such dissolute life as Charles. Mr. Massingberd, however, informs us that this prayer was taken from one which had been appointed to be said in the reign of Charles I. for the Long Parliament, and that, moreover, it only followed the example of the ancient liturgies, in which the Roman Emperors were called "most venerable and pious." The expression could not, therefore, have been first introduced in compliment to Charles II. It is remarkable that the Parliament first prayed for should have been that which, after various irregular transformations, brought the persons chiefly instrumental in introducing this prayer—namely, Charles and Archbishop Laud—to the scaffold. There are many other matters of interest in this volume, but space does not allow us to add a word further.

NEW NOVELS.*

"GUY WATERMAN" is a tale republished from one of the cheap periodicals of the day in the more imposing form of a three-volume novel. That it was originally written to please uncultivated tastes, its somewhat violent alternations of fortune, and the extraordinary class of incidents related in the work, obviously implies. And of this, it need scarcely be added, the story of a changeling is eminently susceptible. The motive of the change, in this instance, is, by a certainly unhackneyed idea on the part of the author, referred to religious sentiment. Mrs. Dalrymple, the wife of an English gentleman of property and position, being a Roman Catholic, while her husband is a Protestant, and having, as well as her nurse, given birth to a son, within a fortnight of each other, has more at heart her child's spiritual welfare than its mere temporal advantages. She therefore allows an opportunity for the change alluded to ; while the death of the lady and of one of the children flings in the way of the nurse, who is of the same religious persuasion as her mistress, a temptation, the effects of which, and the complications it gives rise to, form the substance of these volumes. The humble manner in which Mr. Dalrymple's heir is brought up ; his conviction as a poacher by his father ; his discovery of a document whereby he saves that gentleman from the ruinous machinations of an iniquitous steward ; Guy's consequent release from captivity, and appointment to the situation necessarily vacated by the villain before alluded to ; the subsequent career of the hero, including the turning-up of papers which prove, just before his father's death, his real name and title ; his marriage to a designing girl, who, unknown to him, is acquainted with the nature of the concealed articles, the written proofs referred to ; and the ensuing train of events, tragical, if not melodramatic, whereby he is released from his new-made matrimonial ties, and an union is ultimately effected between another lady and himself, more congenial to his tastes and suitable to his position,—are matters related with much ingenuity and vivacity, and developed with accelerating interest, although, at times, undoubtedly verging on the extreme confines of probability.

Mr. Holl, in his new story, has shown more ability in multiplying marvellous events than in developing character ; almost an inevitable failing in works so rapidly and cursorily written as are novels in the present day. The work is certainly not without glimpses of character, although the two principal ones, Hester, to wit, and John Peakjacket, are not such as the reader can sympathise with, nor can he feel much interest in their ultimately uncombined fates. There is an unreality about the whole narrative, which is doubtless the result of endeavouring to work into one movement too many secret springs. Without betraying the singular series of events related in the story, it may be remarked of the characters that Hester is a wild Bengal tigress, ready to wipe out a supposed offence by the murder of her husband, Colville, who is a base but handsome bigamist, adorable for light locks and azure orbs of vision ; Clements, her second husband, a mean, malicious, dissipated and dishonourable sneak ; John Peakjacket, an honest, hearty fellow, but most inconsistently represented as a disagreeable spy ; Nathaniel Childerstone, solicitor, a sanctimonious hypocrite ; Dymes and his sister Nan, a money-grubbing, gin-guzzling couple, who deserve penal servitude for their treatment of Hester's child ; Mrs. Padmore, a slightly amusing copy of Mrs. Nickleby, in her rambling and unpunctuated style of conversation ; while the Puddifants, who with her make the comedy of the story, and Frank and Lucy Emmerton (merely subordinate personages, after all), are the only people who appear to us to comport themselves with any degree of propriety, probability, or nature. The changing luck of turfites, in general, and of Clements in particular, and the unchanging selfishness and dishonesty of such speculators as himself and his friend Natty Binns, are, it may be added, graphically

delineated ; while the luckless end to which those unprincipled confederates are consigned by the means of the "bit of blood" on which they had so inauspiciously prided themselves, is felt by the reader, beyond all doubt, as a piece of poetical justice richly deserved and righteously awarded.

The third work on our list will be found more striking to a reflective than a cursory reader. The volumes abound with proofs both of keen perception and delicate discrimination of character, and with evidence of a knowledge of the interaction of the conventional rules of society with the deeper and more comprehensive laws of human nature. Although the framework of the story, consisting of the sudden fall of a family from opulence and social consideration to penury, through the death of a father who had lost his ancient estates by imprudent speculations, is not in itself very novel, yet the turn ultimately given to the catastrophe is unhackneyed and unexpected, and the same may be said to be the case with the ill-starred attachment existing between Arthur and Helen ; the progressive development of which latter character, from the beginning to the end the principal in the work, is ably and delicately delineated. The tale is thoughtfully composed, and, though the writer's reflections are frequently original, there is abundant witness of indebtedness to various sources, both native and foreign, and a comprehensive acquaintance with the highest classes and choicest exemplars of European literature. It is altogether a pleasing and instructive work, showing a consistency in the substance of the narrative, both as regards incident and sentiment, which, if it be true that simplicity

"Is Nature's first step, and the last of Art,"

speaks at once for the skill with which it is constructed, and its apparent truthfulness and fidelity to actual life.

SHORT NOTICES.

Physical Geography for Schools and General Readers. By M. F. Maury, LL.D., Commander in the Navy of the Confederate States of America, &c. (Longmans.)—The name of Captain Maury is in itself a warrant for the sterling value of any book connected with the facts of physical geography. He has as great a reputation in England as in America for scientific knowledge in this department of investigation, and the works he has already contributed to the elucidation of difficult questions in connection with the theory of winds and currents, are referred to as standard authorities on the subject. In the little manual which he now puts forth for the use of schools, he has made a digest of the more elaborate matter contained in his previous volumes, and has also referred to the works of Mrs. Somerville, Professor Tyndall, and Mr. Keith Johnston. The result is a compilation of great value, crowded with information, and written in a lucid and agreeable style. The physical geography of our planet is not sufficiently studied ; but it will be found to contain features of the deepest interest, and to unfold to the student a system of profound wisdom and of marvellous adaptation to the needs of living creatures. To the young, and to those among their elders who have no time for sounding the more abstruse parts of the science, the brief treatise of Captain Maury will prove an excellent guide.

A Practical Introduction to Latin Verse Composition. By Thomas Kerchever Arnold, M.A. Fourth Edition (Rivingtons).—It would be superfluous in these days to enter into any criticism on a guide to Latin verse composition by so well-known a scholar as the late Dr. Arnold. This "Practical Introduction" has already become a standard school-book, and we have now only to record that in the present edition the whole work has been corrected. The translations have been compared with the originals, and altered where necessary ; the *Alcaics* and *Sapphics* have been arranged in stanzas, and the order of the Exercises is so changed that each kind of verse may stand in a chapter by itself. The Notes to the Exercises have been removed to an Appendix, in order to give greater facilities in school examinations ; and divers other improvements have been introduced, to the increased value of the work.

British and Garden Botany. By Leo H. Grindon, Lecturer on Botany at the Royal School of Medicine, Manchester. With numerous Illustrations (Routledge & Co.).—This thick volume of 869 closely-printed pages is described by its author as consisting of descriptions of the flowering plants, ferns, and trees indigenous to Great Britain, with notices of all plants commonly cultivated in this country for use and ornament. The body of the work is preceded by a treatise, introducing the reader to the leading facts of structural and physiological botany ; and Mr. Grindon says that his book is intended for the use of persons who take an interest in plants and flowers, and who wish to acquire a knowledge of their scientific relations, "though without leisure to study botany in its minute details." After so modest an announcement, one would naturally look for a handbook, and not for a volume with a back as broad as the family Bible. If this be a mere skimming of the surface of botany, designed to amuse the leisure of young ladies, or "for use in schools and private families," as the author expressly states in his preface, botany must certainly be the most abstruse and elaborate science in the whole range of learning. To us, who are far from being proficient in this elegant branch of knowledge, the volume looks rather formidable ; but we have no doubt it is both interesting and useful. A glossary and an index are added, and the reader's convenience seems to have been studied throughout in the typographical and other arrangements of the matter.

No. XI. of *The Church Builder, a Quarterly Journal of Church Extension in England and Wales* (Rivingtons), has been issued. It contains several articles on the building and warming of churches, on mission-churches and mission-houses, on recent movements in aid of building new edifices, and on various matters interesting to the clerical world and to many of the laity.

* *Guy Waterman*: a Novel. By John Saunders, author of "Abel Drake's Wife." Three vols. London: Tinsley, Brothers.

More Secrets than One: a Novel. By Henry Holl, author of "The King's Mail," "The Old House in Crosby Square." Three vols. London: Low, Son, & Marston.

Wanted—a Home. By the author of "Morning Clouds," "The Romance of a Dull Life," &c. Three vols. London: Smith, Elder, & Co.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE conversation of the week in literary circles has been the extraordinary prices paid for the rare volumes which composed Mr. George Daniel's library. Never, since the days when the Duke of Marlborough contested with Lord Spencer the possession of the famous Valdarfar Boccaccio, and the auctioneer's hammer descended to the amount of £2,260, did the desire to possess literary rarities in the finest possible condition exhibit itself in so extraordinary a manner as it has done during the past and present weeks. The *Times* has daily given reports of the sale with the regularity accorded to the Parliamentary debates, and on Thursday devoted a glowing leader to the praise and exemplary practice of bibliomania. Tuesday was the grand day, and all the morning, and during the time of sale, people were thronging the rooms in Wellington-street, to obtain a glimpse of the "pot quartos"—as they were once termed—which first heralded Shakespeare's plays into the world. Besides, it was known that Miss Coutts Burdett had commissioned an agent to buy for her, and it was understood that another eminent personage, moving in the highest circles, would be present to secure a relic. To give a list even of the important books and tracts sold would occupy our entire space. The sale catalogue, a most interesting volume, extends to 222 pages. In the sixth day's sale—the Shakespeare day—we are tempted to stop at "A New Merry Riddle Book in Picture," and "A Merry Jest of Robin Hood," both believed to be unique; but the Shakespeares are more than we can enumerate. —Lot 1365. "Tragicall Historie of Romeus and Juliet," 1562; only one other copy known, £74 (Lilly).—1380. "Kynge Rycharde, Cuer du Lyon," printed by Wyn Kyn de Worde, and one of the Shakespeare library, £92 (Lilly).—1416. "Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies," the excessively rare first edition, and "unquestionably the finest copy that can ever occur for public sale." Miss Burdett Coutts secured this for 682 guineas. The auctioneers, in describing this volume, were almost at a loss for language sufficiently glowing to depict its virtues and its rarity, after having exhausted the vocabulary of praise on the preceding lots. Their concluding paragraph, however, indicates that a contemplation of the volume prevented any paucity of language, and that they became equal to the task of description. "Its beauty was first remarked on by Dr. Dibdin. Interesting letters are in the volume, written before the imperishable monument to the genius of the immortal poet had reached its bibliographical zenith."—1417. *Second* edition of the preceding, £148 (Boone).—1418. *Third* edition, £46 (Lilly).—1419. *Fourth* edition, £21. 10s. (Boone). After these followed the rare quartos, the editions of Shakespeare's plays printed and published during the lifetime of the poet.—1425. "The Tragedie of King Richard the Second," first edition, almost unique, 325 guineas (Lilly).—1426. *Second* edition, 103 guineas, purchased by Mr. Halliwell, the eminent Shakesperian scholar.—1427. "The Tragedy of King Richard the Third, containing his treacherous plots, the pitefull murder of his innocent nephews," &c. A beautiful copy, and the only one which has ever occurred for sale, 335 guineas (Lilly).—1428. A "Pleasant conceited comedie called Lones Labors Lost," the finest copy known, 338 guineas (Boone).—1429. "History of Henrie the Fourth," 110 guineas (Stevens).—1430. "The most Excellent and Lamentable Tragedie of Romeo and Juliet," the first edition, 50 guineas (Lilly).—1431. "The Chronicle History of Henry the Fifth, with his battell fought at Agin Court in France," first edition most rare, 220 guineas (Lilly).—1432. "The most Excellent Historie of the Merchant of Venice with the extreame crueltie of Shylocke the Iewe towards the sayd Merchant in cutting a iust pound of his flesh," the rare first edition, 95 guineas (Lilly). Here we must stop—for this week at least. We believe our readers may understand by the name "Lilly" that Mr. Huth is the purchaser, by "Boone," the British Museum, and by "Stevens," an American gentleman, who has long devoted himself to the expensive pleasures of bibliomania. It is said that Mr. Huth has already expended at this sale what most people would regard as a very handsome fortune.

Many persons will have been surprised at the sudden popularity of the lately published *Owl*, and its equally sudden extinguishment. Some unpleasant pressure, it is understood, caused that erratic sheet to disappear from the light of day, and now it is rumoured that some of the owlets are about to start a larger paper, also of a facetious character, partly news, partly opinion, and at the price of the former sheet, but with an illustration, or "cartoon," to use the language of the conductors. It will appear once a fortnight.

The fac-similist who produced, from old books, sculptures, and rare engravings, a handsome little volume on the "Varieties of Dogs" some time since, has now another work in hand—"Mirabilia Romæ," an ancient block-book, and constituting a sort of hand-book, or guide, to German pilgrims about to proceed to Rome. The date of the original is somewhere about 1455-60.

A few years ago, it was the fashion with book collectors to deplore the cargoes of books which were continually being shipped to the United States. The new educational institutions in that country required libraries, and a certain number of old books were absolutely necessary to give the seminaries an air of profound learning and antiquarian respectability. The Western colleges, in all probability, retain their treasures, but very recently it has become the fashion to re-ship private collections to this country for sale. The rate of exchange is such that, if a book realises 20s. here at auction, the gold purchases 50s. of the national paper in New York. New books, too, are now coming over to be sold by public competition in the sale-rooms. A few days since, a large quantity, consigned by the Messrs. Appleton, were sold at the auction-room in Leicester-square, and the prices realised by Messrs. Puttick & Simpson were, we believe, likely to give satisfaction to those who had directed the consignment.

Dr. Livingstone has returned from Africa, and might have been seen, on Sunday morning last, at Mr. Binney's, Weigh House Chapel. He is to stay in England some four months, and it is rumoured that another volume of his African experiences will be given to the world. It is expected that at the meeting of the British Association, to be

held at Bath on the 14th of September, the great traveller will give some account of his last adventures.

The memory of Alfred de Musset, the admired author of numerous poems, and the writer of a few books which, luckily for his memory, were privately printed at Brussels, has recently been honoured by a graceful act on the part of a South American poet, Colonel Hilario Ascasubi. Recent visitors to Père la Chaise will have noticed his unpretending funeral monument, bearing this inscription:—

"Mes chers amis, quand je mourrai,
Plantez un saule au cimetière;
J'aime son feuillage éploré,
La pâleur en est douce et chère,
Et son ombre sera légère
A la tombe où je dormirai."

Musset himself wrote these verses, and Ascasubi, while at Paris, in November last, read the appeal, and made a vow to bring from the Rio de la Plata a willow, to place beside that which the poet had requested of his friends. This promise, a French journal says, has just been fulfilled. On arriving at Buenos Ayres, Col. Ascasubi sent to the banks of the Parana for a weeping-willow, which was carefully tended at Buenos Ayres till the 12th of May, when it left La Plata with the Colonel on board the *Saintonge*. It was afterwards transhipped to the steamer *Guyenne*, and treated as a venerated relic by the officers, crew, and passengers. After crossing the Atlantic, the willow was brought to Paris, and planted, a few days ago, beside the tomb of the author of "Rolla" and "Les Nuits."

The eminent geologist, Sir Charles Lyell, has been made a baronet. His title will henceforth be Sir Charles Lyell, Baronet, of Kinnordy, in the county of Forfar.

The late *Daily News* correspondent in Poland, Mr. W. H. Bullock, is about to publish his impressions of that unhappy country, under the title of "Polish Experience." Messrs. Macmillan & Co. will issue the work.

An Autograph mania has, in Paris, taken the place of the recent postage-stamp fever. The publication issued there, devoted to facsimiles of the handwriting of eminent people, has a wide circulation, and contains many letters of a literary value, and not simply curious for the evidence they afford of mere penmanship. How characteristic is this anecdote of Casimir Delavigne!—A poor literary man wrote to him, in 1832, to beg for a loan of money. It unluckily happened that the day the letter fell into Delavigne's hands they were empty; so he replied, stating the circumstance which prevented him from relieving an unfortunate brother. He signed his name, and proceeded to fold the letter, when his conscience appealed to him in charity's name not to turn off the suitor empty-handed. He took his pen again, and added this touching postscript:—"Sir, I cannot resist the painful emotion I experience. I send you the only object of value I possess. It is a repeater-watch, which I beg you will use in any way you may please. You will not deprive me of it, for I shall not use it again; it would remind me every hour of the day that an unhappy man appealed to me in vain when I still possessed the means of being useful to him."

Of forthcoming works, some announcements have been made during the past week:—

Messrs. CHAPMAN & HALL lead us to expect, "Through Macedonia to the Albanian Lakes," by Mary A. Walker; "A Collected Edition of Owen Meredith's Poems;" "The Muscles and their Story," by Dr. Blundill; "Le Sport at Baden;" "A Sea Story," by Captain Herbert, in 3 vols.; and a second edition of "Cates's Pocket Date-Book."

Messrs. MACMILLAN & Co. have in the press a new work, entitled, "A Commentary on the Epistles of St. Paul the Apostle," by Dr. Vaughan, Vicar of Doncaster, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen; "The Bible Word-Book, a Glossary of Old English Bible Words, with Illustrations," by J. Eastwood and W. Aldis Wright; and "A Brief Biographical Dictionary for the Use of Schools and General Readers," by the Rev. Charles Hole.

Messrs. JACKSON, WALFORD, & HODDER have in the press, in 1 vol. with portrait, "Memoirs of the Life and Ministry of the Rev. Thomas Raffles, D.D.," by Thomas Stamford Raffles, Esq.; also "Tossed on the Waves, a Story of Life," by Edwin Hodder, Author of "Memories of New Zealand Life," &c.

The members of the Etching Club are about to issue a new series of their latest works. It is some years since they published any of their well-known productions, which now for the most part are out of print. Their last series of etchings was given to prize-holders in the Art Union of London, and now fetches a high price. The new volume will include etchings by C. W. Cope, R.A.; T. Creswick, R.A.; J. C. Hook, R.A.; J. E. Millais, R.A.; R. Redgrave, R.A.; R. Ansdell, A.R.A.; J. C. Horsley, A.R.A.; Holman Hunt, Seymour Haden, G. B. O'Neil, Samuel Palmer, and Frederick Talyer; and these will be of a larger and more finished character than before. This work will be issued by the Etching Club's publisher, Mr. Cundall of Bond-street.

A work of M. Feuillet de Conches, which has long been expected, will appear in a few days. It is a collection of the Letters of Louis XVI., Marie Antoinette, Madame Elizabeth, the Emperor of Germany, and the Empress Catherine II. This work is the fruit of twenty years' research in the repositories of the great families and the archives of Austria, Russia, Italy, and Sweden. Some diplomatic correspondence on the events of the Revolution, contained in this work, is said to reveal many singular facts.

M. Schern has just published, at M. Lévy's, a work in connection with such writings as those of Bishop Colenso, "Essays and Reviews," and the "Vie de Jésus," entitled, "Mélanges d'Histoire Religieuse."

A commission has been formed, under the presidency of M. le Baron Taylor, to erect a monument to the celebrated French poet, Béranger.

LIST OF NEW PUBLICATIONS FOR THE WEEK.

About in the World. By the Author of "The Gentle Life." Cr. 8vo., 6s.
 Adventures of Verdant Green. By Cuthbert Bede. New edit. Cr. 8vo., 3s. 6d.
 Aesop's Fables. By Croxall. New edit. 32mo., 1s.
 Ainsworth (W. H.), Cardinal Pole. New edit. Cr. 8vo., 5s.
 Arnold (T. K.), Introduction to Latin Verse Composition. 4th edit. 12mo., 3s. 6d.
 Barnaby (G.), The Return of the Swallow. Poems. Fcap., 5s.
 Barnard (J. G.), The Peninsular Campaign and its Antecedents. 8vo., 4s. 6d.
 Beattie & Goldsmith's Poetical Works. Fcap., 3s. 6d. (Nimmo).
 Bickersteth (Dr. E.), Questions on the Articles. 5th edit. 12mo., 3s. 6d.
 Black Moss; a Tale. By the Author of "Miriam May." 2 vols. Cr. 8vo., 21s.
 Blake (Rev. G. B.), Memorial Sketch of. Fcap., 4s. 6d.
 Bohn's Royal Illustrated Series.—Maxwell's History of the Irish Rebellion. Cr. 8vo., 7s. 6d.
 Bradshaw's Hand Book to Great Britain. New edit. 4 Parts. 16mo., 1s. each.
 Carrington (R. C.), Foreign Measures and their English Values. 8vo., 6s.
 Christian Comfort. By the Author of "Emblems of Jesus." Fcap., 2s. 6d.
 Codd (Rev. R.), Lectures on the 53rd of Isaiah. Fcap., 3s. 6d.
 Cornelius O'Dowd upon Men, Women, and Things in General. Cr. 8vo., 10s. 6d.
 D'Almeida (W. B.), Life in Java. 2 vols. Cr. 8vo., 21s.
 Davidson's Family Devotions, with Music. 4to., 2s.
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 Ellis (B.), Medical Formulary. 11th edit. 8vo., 12s.
 Fenby (T.), Dictionary of English Synonyms. 2nd edit. Fcap., 3s.
 Guizot (M.), Meditations on the Essence of Christianity. Cr. 8vo., 9s. 6d.
 Heart (The) Triumphant. New edit. Fcap., 3s. 6d.
 Hildebrand (G. B.), Application of Prophecy to the Crimean War. Cr. 8vo., 10s. 6d.
 Jenkins (H.), Scraps. Cr. 8vo., 10s. 6d.
 Kildare (Marquis), The Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors. New edit. 2 vols. 8vo., £1. 11s. 6d.
 Kingsley (Rev. C.), The Heroes. New edit. Fcap., 3s. 6d.
 Landels (Rev. W.), The Cross of Christ. Fcap., 4s. 6d.
 Manning (H.), On the English and on Cognate Dialects. 8vo., 2s.
 Oxford English Classics. Johnson's Lives of the Poets. Vol. I. 8vo., 3s. 6d.
 Pope's Poetical Works. Fcap., 3s. 6d. (Nimmo).
 Popular Science Review. Vol. III. 8vo., 12s.
 Railway Library. Hawthorne's House with the Seven Gables. Fcap., 1s.
 Ramsay (A. C.), Physical Geography and Geology of Great Britain. 2nd edit. Cr. 8vo., 5s.
 Ruff's Guide to the Turf. Supplement to 1864. 12mo., 1s. 6d.
 Sankey (Rev. R.), The Christian's Life in Heaven and on Earth. Fcap., 4s.
 Select Library of Fiction. Mr. and Mrs. Assheton. Fcap., 2s.
 Shakespeare's Tempest, with Notes by Rev. J. M. Jephson. Fcap., 3s. 6d.
 Shakespeare. Edited by T. Keightley. Vol. III. Fcap., 5s.
 Shehan (J. J.), History of Kingston-upon-Hull. Cr. 8vo., 10s. 6d.
 Stevenson (H. L.), A Heart Twice Won. 2 vols. Cr. 8vo., 21s.
 Todd's (Dr. John) Complete Works. New edit. 12mo., 5s.
 Tough Yarns. By the Old Sailor. New edit. Fcap., 1s.
 Tytler's (P. F.) History of Scotland. Popular edit. Vol. II. Cr. 8vo., 4s. 6d.
 Universal Commercial Correspondence, in Six Languages. 2 vols. 8vo., 20s.
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 Vaughan (Rev. J.), Rays of Sunlight for Dark Days. 4th edit. Fcap., 3s. 6d.
 Walch's Tasmanian Almanack, 1864. 12mo., 5s. 6d.

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SIR J. R. CARMICHAEL, BART., IN THE CHAIR.

THE statement which the Directors have this year to lay before the Proprietors, respecting the progress of the Company during 1863, affords them the opportunity of again offering congratulations on the improved condition of the Office.

The new Premiums received amounted to £6,481. 5s. 8d., the sum thereby assured being £193,815. The total Income of the Company was £53,427. 14s. 2d.

These items exceed those of any preceding year, and might have been very largely increased had not the Directors seen fit to decline a large number of Proposals which were not of a first-class character.

After payment of £15,912 to the representatives of deceased Members, and defraying all admitted charges and demands on the Company to the 31st of December, no less than 40 per cent. of the Income has been added to its Funds.

The increase of business during the first quarter of the current year, though investigated with the usual caution, has been still more satisfactory, the new Premiums received to the 31st of March being at the rate of nearly £9,000 per annum.

To maintain this increase, while transacting only the high standard of business which it has always been the desire of the Directors to procure, is, considering the intense competition which surrounds them, and without the adoption of undue expenditure, no light task.

It is therefore no formal appeal that the Board make when they call on each Proprietor and Assured to use some extra personal exertion this year to obtain new Policies. By introducing fresh connections to the Officers and Agents of the Company, and canvass-

ing their friends, a large accession of business would, at comparatively little cost, be secured, and a very sensible impetus be given to our progress and future profits. The Directors therefore confidently hope for a general co-operation towards this object.

It is with sincere regret that the Directors have to refer to the loss the Company has sustained by the death of Lord Arthur Lennox, their late Chairman. An unceasing interest exerted on its behalf, combined with the exercise of strict integrity, and a courteous bearing, so well known to the Proprietors ever since the foundation of the office, cannot fail to be remembered by all who were associated with his Lordship.

The Directors have also to regret the loss, by death, of Mr. F. G. Johnston, who from the very commencement of their operations had acted as one of the Chief Office Medical Advisers of the Company.

The vacancy occasioned at the Board by the death of Lord Arthur Lennox has been filled up by the election of Sir J. Eardley Wilmot, Bart., a gentleman whose social position and influence cannot fail to be beneficial to the Company.

The Directors have elected as their Chairman, Sir JAMES CARMICHAEL, Bart., and as Deputy-Chairman JOHN ASHBURNER, Esq., M.D.

These two Gentlemen this year retire by rotation, and, with the Auditors, offer themselves for re-election.

In conclusion, the Directors again recommend the usual Dividend of 5 per cent. on the Capital, and Bonus additions, being equivalent to 5½ per cent. on the amount paid up.

(Signed)

J. R. CARMICHAEL, Chairman.